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What's News

World-Wide

Trump froze more than \$200 million in funds for recovery efforts in Syria as his administration reassesses Washington's broader role in the protracted conflict there. A1

◆ At least 15 Palestinians died in clashes with the Israeli military as tens of thousands of Palestinian protesters massed along the Israel-Gaza border. A6

◆ Saudi Arabia has agreed to play a leading role in starting a new peace process in Afghanistan. A8

◆ The U.N. Security Council announced sanctions against North Korea despite plans for summit talks. A9

◆ Demand for low-skilled worker visas for the summer season is again far outstripping supply, putting the administration in a bind. A3

◆ The family of an unarmed black man killed by Sacramento, Calif., police released their own autopsy report showing that six of eight bullets hit him in the back. A3

◆ The widow of the gunman who killed 49 people at an Orlando nightclub was acquitted of charges in connection with the attack. A3

Business & Finance

◆ Walmart's potential acquisition of Humana would push the retailer far beyond its big-box roots, enabling it to diversify while thrusting it into a complex and evolving health-care sector. A1, A2

◆ Investments that typically serve as havens in times of stress are moving in strange ways, highlighting the unsettled condition of financial markets. A1

◆ Stock ratings among analysts and brokerages have largely held steady for big tech firms even as their shares have slumped. B10

◆ Tesla acknowledged that its semiautonomous Auto-pilot system was engaged by the driver in the seconds before a fatal crash. B1

◆ John Thain, the former leader of Merrill Lynch and the NYSE, is expected to join Deutsche Bank's supervisory board in May. B1

◆ A 2016 memo by a Facebook executive flagged "the ugly truth" about the social network's relentless pursuit of growth. B1

◆ The NYSE is in talks to buy the Chicago Stock Exchange after the recent collapse of a two-year acquisition effort by a Chinese-led group. B8

Inside NOONAN A15 The Wisdom Of Oscar Hammerstein

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Palestinian Demonstrations Along Israeli Border Turn Violent



BREAKING POINT: At least 15 Palestinians died in clashes with the Israeli military on Friday at demonstrations that drew tens of thousands. The protests, backed by the extremist group Hamas, come at a time when the economy in the Gaza Strip is crumbling. A6

Trump Freezes Syria Funds

By FELICIA SCHWARTZ

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump froze more than \$200 million in funds for recovery efforts in Syria as his administration reassesses Washington's broader role in the protracted conflict there.

The White House ordered the State Department to put the spending on hold, U.S. officials said, a decision in line with Mr. Trump's declaration on Thursday that America would exit Syria and "let the

other people take care of it now."

Mr. Trump called for the freeze after reading a news report noting that the U.S. had recently committed an additional \$200 million to support early recovery efforts in Syria, said the officials. Departing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson pledged the money in February in Kuwait at a meeting of the coalition to defeat Islamic State.

The shift comes as the fight against the group has stalled,

U.S. military officials concede. Pentagon officials have told Mr. Trump Islamic State has lost control of all but about 5% of the Syrian territory it once held, but fighting for that final swath has reached an impasse.

An accelerated exit of the U.S. from Syria would also raise concerns about ceding the hotly contested country to Iran and Russia. That would unnerve Israel and Saudi Arabia, key U.S. allies that both agitate for a tougher U.S. approach to Tehran.

Israel has warned its regional adversaries that it won't allow Iran to cement its hold in Syria, and its military has repeatedly bombed Syria to make that point clear. In February, Israel shot down an Iranian drone that entered Israel, stoking tensions and raising new fears of a regional war.

It isn't clear how Mr. Trump's eagerness to end the U.S. effort in Syria comports with his recent overhaul of his national security team. He has

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Please see HAVENS page A4

Walmart Courts New Risk In Its Hunt for Humana

By SARAH NASSAUER
AND ANNA WILDE MATHEWS

on a merger or pursue some other partnership.

A deal could present several challenges for Walmart, whose profits have been squeezed by competition and e-commerce investments to fend off Amazon.com Inc. The retailer ended its latest fiscal year in January with \$500 billion in revenue. However, its profits have declined 30% over the past three years to \$10.5 billion.

"Moving onto this turf would give Walmart a whole new arena in which to expand" when retail margins are under pressure, said Neil Saunders, managing director of consult-

ing firm GlobalData Retail. Still, he said, "the risks of becoming entangled in the complex U.S. health-care industry are considerable."

Taking over a health insurer would force Walmart into a highly regulated and fast-changing business, where the biggest players have sought mergers as bulwarks in part against the threat of Amazon, or to take advantage of regulatory shifts.

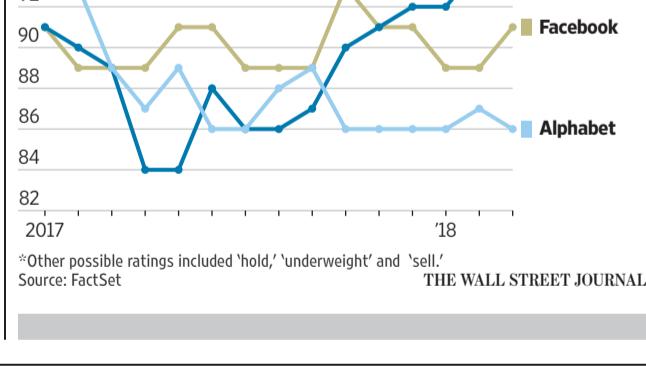
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◆ Talks pressure remaining health-care rivals..... A2
◆ Heard on the Street: A risky prescription for Walmart. B10

Wall Street Isn't Buying 'Techlash'

Analysts have maintained bullish stock ratings on big tech firms, saying tighter regulations aren't likely to hurt the companies' earnings or check their dominance across a range of industries. B10

Share of analysts issuing 'buy' or 'overweight' ratings for each stock*



*Other possible ratings included 'hold,' 'underweight' and 'sell.'

Source: FactSet

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Goodbye, Gefilte Fish Hello, Matzo Crack

* * *

Passover rebels pass over tradition as liberation from 'all this heavy, beige food'

By SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

At Passover dinner this weekend, Judith Klein Frimer plans to serve her guests a smorgasbord of the unorthodox: kosher hot dogs, pizza and zucchini-feta pie.

"I get tired of cooking the same foods every year," said Mrs. Frimer, who is preparing the meal for nearly a dozen relatives and close friends at her Irvington, N.Y., home. At last year's dinner, the young adults whined about the texture of the matzo balls, the 66-year-old said.

"It's hard enough to get them to come home for the holidays as it is," she said.

The first two nights of Passover center around a hearty Se

Please see KOSHER page A12

der lasagna

For thousands of years, Jews have gathered to celebrate Passover, a holiday that marks the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt—and requires going eight days without eating leavened foods containing grains such as wheat, barley and oats. Many Jews also forgo legumes and rice.

The first two nights of Passover center around a hearty Se

Please see KOSHER page A12

der lasagna

Now, the Hage cows are gone from that private pasture and the family ranch is in foreclosure.

You can get on your horse and look like

In Battle for American West, Cowboys Are Losing

More than just ranchers today have claims on vast public lands

By JIM CARLTON

MONITOR VALLEY, Nev.—Wayne Hage saddled up to check on his cattle one morning last summer, but he didn't have to ride far. All his cows were confined to a private field near his ranch house, instead of roaming the Toquima and Monitor mountains, as herds have done for more than a century.

Federal officials have prodded Hage cattle off this lonesome stretch of central Nevada. They didn't use a lasso. The government corralled the cows through a series of court rulings and policy changes to limit grazing—tactics applied broadly to ranchers across the West.

Now, the Hage cows are gone from that private pasture and the family ranch is in foreclosure.

You can get on your horse and look like

John Wayne out here, but live the most miserable life ever because you're dealing with lawyers all the time," said the 42-year-old Mr. Hage.

In the latest land war for the American West, the cowboys are losing.

Ranchers who rely on public land to raise their cattle say they have shrinking access to wide open spaces, grass and water because of an array of regulations. Over the last four decades, the number of cows grazing on public lands has dropped by nearly half.

In some cases, government officials curb grazing to protect natural resources from damage caused by cattle, and create preserves for threatened species. In others, officials close land to ranchers to give more access to the public for hiking and other activities that fuel the fast-growing recreation industry.

Please see LAND page A12

U.S. NEWS

THE NUMBERS | By Jo Craven McGinty

My Mama Told Me: Get a Better Interest Rate



Smokey Robinson had it right: You better shop around—for love, sure, but, as it turns out, for interest rates as well.

Borrowers who finance the purchase of cars or homes without soliciting quotes from multiple lenders often pay more than their financial peers.

Without comparison shopping, consumers don't know the difference. And in the absence of that competitive pressure, lenders have no incentive to offer similar borrowers comparable rates.

As a result, one borrower may pay thousands more than another, even when the two have virtually identical credit scores, commensurate debt and are buying the same thing at the same time in the same place.

"Most people think prices are roughly the same," said Sergei Koulayev, an economist with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

"The differences are large."

The average spread on home mortgages among all borrowers is a half percentage point, according to Mr. Koulayev's research. Paying 4% interest on a \$400,000 mortgage instead of 3.5% amounts to an extra \$114 in monthly payments.

The average difference in car loans is 1.3 percentage points, according to researchers at MIT and Brigham Young University. For the typical car loan, the difference would be like paying \$1,300 more on the purchase price.

"You would never get away with this if you were selling milk," said Christopher Palmer, an economist at MIT and co-author of the research on car loans. "It would be the same price for everyone."

Three things affect interest rates: A benchmark, such as the prime rate commercial banks charge their most creditworthy customers; a borrower's credit score and debt-to-income ratio; and

the lender's markup.

Markups, which vary from lender to lender and borrower to borrower, are primarily responsible for the differences in rates.

"Lender A might say that for someone with a 740 credit score, the markup will be 1.5%," Mr. Palmer said. "Lender B may say there is no markup."

To test how borrowers are affected by differences in interest rates, Mr. Palmer and his research partners examined 2.4 million auto loans extended by 326 lenders, nearly all credit unions, from 2005 through 2016 in all 50 states. The borrowers were slightly older, less racially diverse and of a higher average credit quality than national averages, which could affect the findings.

More than half of the car buyers paid more in interest than people with similar credit scores, including nearly 20% who took out loans more than 2 percentage points higher than the best rate available to similar borrowers.

The Loan Range

Market share of mortgage rates offered for a prospective home buyer with a FICO score of 760 in Massachusetts requesting a \$400,000 loan with 20% down.

Rate	Market share
3.9-4.0	3%
4.0-4.1	80%
4.1-4.2	12.9%
4.2-4.3	0%
4.3-4.4	5.2%
4.4-4.5	7.7%

Notes: Data as of Nov 3, 2014; Market shares do not total 100% due to rounding

Source: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

size that Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac could buy that year.

The data allowed Mr. Koulayev to compute the actual rate on a given mortgage, as well as rates a consumer could have obtained if he or she had contacted other lenders.

"The overpayment comes down to about \$300 per year, but for the unlucky 10% of consumers, it was \$600 or more," he said.

Over the entire market of 45 million mortgages, the estimated cost to consumers who didn't shop around was a combined \$13 billion.

In each case, the researchers concluded consumers didn't search for better interest rates because, in layman's terms, it's a pain in the neck.

"Difficulty of shopping and difficulty of comparing quotes are definitely components" that prevent people from searching for better deals, Mr. Koulayev said. "The internet isn't helping much either, at least yet."

Borrowers also may skip shopping around because they feel loyal to a particular

lender. But because all lenders are licensed and registered, and the originator of a loan may not even service it, Mr. Koulayev said price should take precedence.

"The end product is the same," he said. "It makes no difference who originates the loan."

There is no comprehensive source for comparing interest rates, but borrowers can get a sense of what they should expect to pay with the help of websites such as Bankrate and the CFPB's tool, which shows mortgage interest rates offered to similar people.

Even without a tool, the researchers found that soliciting three quotes is enough to feel confident that a borrower is getting the best possible price, or very close to it.

"Make sure to ask for the rate at zero points from every lender" to ensure the quotes are comparable, Mr. Koulayev said.

The result will be in your best interest.

Talks Put Pressure on Remaining Health-Care Rivals

BY ANNA WILDE MATHEWS
AND SHARON TERLEP

The emergence of talks between **Walmart** Inc. and **Humana** Inc. creates pressure on the health-care companies that haven't yet made deals, amid the rapid-fire integration that is reshaping the business.

A Walmart-Humana deal would become the latest sign of the sector's rapid move toward combinations that unite different businesses under one roof.

It would come in the wake of the \$69 billion deal between drugstore chain and pharmacy-benefit manager **CVS Health Corp.** and insurer **Aetna Inc.**, and insurer **Cigna Corp.**'s \$54 billion agreement to acquire the biggest PBM, **Express Scripts Holding Co.**

The spotlight is on remaining companies like **Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc.** and **An-**



A Walmart-Humana deal would raise the stakes for competitors.

them Inc., as well as smaller health insurers that could broaden their roles into different sectors, analysts said.

"Whether you're a payer, a retail clinic, a retailer, a PBM or a pharma company, you're

Ana Gupte, health-care services analyst at Leerink Partners. Walmart ended its fiscal year with net debt of some \$39 billion.

Amazon ended 2017 with more than \$30 billion in cash and short-term investments, and just \$13 billion of net debt.

A Humana deal would be the biggest acquisition by far for the family and the board, which have resisted previous major structural moves, such as splitting off the Sam's Club warehouse division from the core retailing chain, according to people familiar with the matter.

In 2016, the board agreed to pay \$3 billion in cash and \$300 million in Walmart shares for Jet.com, at the time the biggest-ever purchase of a U.S. e-commerce startup.

Walmart has a market value of about \$260 billion. Total shareholder return over the past five years has been 35%, compared with 87% for the S&P 500, although Walmart has outperformed the broader market in the past year.

Its last acquisition of significant size was in 1999, when it bought the U.K.'s Asda Group PLC for \$10.8 billion.

In recent years, Walmart has expanded the pharmacy and health services it offers in stores, adding cheaper generic drugs for sale, procedures like vaccinations and urgent-care locations. It is part of an effort to give shoppers another reason to visit Walmart's cavernous locations even as they buy more online.

Walmart is also the largest seller of food in the U.S., putting it in a unique position to capitalize on shopper data or use a health insurer's data to inform decisions on which products to carry in stores.

The average age of a Walmart shopper is 50, according to Kantar Consulting. It has become older over the past five years, in line with the broader U.S. population of shoppers.

"If I can get you in for your health care and your meds...

thinking, 'how do I start to blur those lines and start playing across those lines,'" said Gurpreet Singh, Health Services leader at PwC.

U.S. drugstores are under pressure to move beyond dis-

pensing prescriptions and selling candy, makeup and soda as **Amazon.com Inc.** chips away at the retail business and cost-control efforts by insurers pressure drug margins. Amazon has also signaled it may go deeper into the health-care and pharmaceutical sectors, which would add to the threat.

Asked about the possibility of a deal during a call with analysts on Wednesday, Walgreens Boots Chief Executive Stefano Pessina said the pharmacy industry is in need of a major overhaul, but "I don't believe that the change is only possible if you merge with a health plan."

Walgreens has nevertheless been pursuing a big deal. Resistance from federal antitrust regulators derailed its attempt last year to acquire rival pharmacy chain Rite Aid Corp. Instead, it agreed to buy about

2,000 Rite Aid stores for around \$4 billion.

The Deerfield, Ill., company, with more than 13,000 stores in 11 countries, recently made an approach to drug distributor **AmerisourceBergen Corp.**, The Wall Street Journal reported in February. Negotiations have since stalled, but could restart, according to people familiar with the talks. Walgreens executives declined to discuss Amerisource discussions when asked this week on an earnings call.

In the insurance sector, analysts said, smaller companies like **WellCare Health Plans Inc.** have long been seen as acquisition targets. **Centene Corp.**, a giant in the Medicaid space, has been growing rapidly through acquisitions, including its effort to take over nonprofit New York health insurer Fidelis Care. Centene also recently invested in a

PBM known as RxAdvance.

UnitedHealth Group Inc., parent of the biggest U.S. insurer, is already vertically integrated, with its ownership of a growing roster of doctor groups and surgery centers as well as its own PBM. The health giant has remained on the M&A warpath in recent months, including its announcement in December that it will buy **DaVita Inc.**'s big physician group.

Anthem has embarked on a vertical move without a big acquisition—it is starting its own PBM, set to launch in 2020, when its PBM deal with Express Scripts ends. The insurer's new CEO, Gail K. Boudreux, has said she is focused on strengthening Anthem's own operations and expects major savings and growth from the new PBM, which could serve Anthem's fellow Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurers, among other clients.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

Neela Montgomery took over as chief executive of Crate and Barrel in August when the company's previous chief, Doug Diemoz, departed after less than two years on the job. A Management article on March 22 that contained an interview with Ms. Montgomery inadvertently omitted the phrase describing Mr. Diemoz's departure.

U.S.-European Union foreign-direct investment stands at \$6 trillion total. A World News article on March 21 about U.S.-EU trade incorrectly said that the bilateral FDI is \$5 trillion annually.

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Walmart likely would need to borrow tens of billions of dollars or issue shares in a deal.

pay for any potential deal.

That could dilute the stake of the founding Walton family, which has retained control of Walmart even as the company has expanded into a global giant, with nearly 12,000 stores from Chicago to Chile to China.

Humana has a market value of \$37 billion. Walmart could end up paying close to \$50 billion to buy the company, said

then you are hopefully going to buy some blue jeans and laundry detergent," said Steve Barr, consumer-markets leader at PwC.

Walmart and Humana have been partners for more than 10 years on a popular Medicare drug plan that lets customers fill prescriptions at Walmart pharmacies with low co-pays.

"They've proven these two companies can work together in a retail setting," said John Gorman, chairman of Gorman Health Group, a consulting firm focused on government health programs.

A merged Walmart-Humana could create a Medicare plan that could be sold in Walmart stores and tap into Walmart's other potential health offerings.

In addition, he said, Walmart's heft as a major purchaser of goods including drugs might be able to generate savings for Humana and its members.

Humana already owns a pharmacy-benefit manager, but it is smaller than the giants in that business, such as CVS and Express Scripts, and has less leverage with pharmaceutical companies.

HUD Hits Biggest U.S. Housing Authority

BY LAURA KUSISTO AND MARA GAY

The Trump administration is curbing New York City's ability to spend money on major repairs to public-housing stock in its first major response to deteriorating conditions in the city's public housing and a scandal over false paperwork about lead-paint inspections.

Ben Carson, secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, said in an interview Thursday his agency is requiring the New York City Housing Authority to get HUD's approval for any expenditures out of its capital fund. The fund pays for upkeep of buildings such as new boilers, repairing leaky roofs and replacing elevator parts.

Mr. Carson ruled out a more drastic step some New York officials feared. He said HUD wouldn't put the authority into receivership, a step that involves HUD taking it over for a period of time.

"Not as long as I'm here," he said. "To take on the responsibility of a massive project of that nature I think would really be unfortunate for the rest of the nation."

176,000

Number of apartments in the New York City Housing Authority

New York housing officials protested HUD's decision to restrict access to capital funds, calling the move punitive. "It is surprising...that the secretary, who has not found an available hour to visit the largest public-housing authority in his portfolio, is focused on steps that hinder not help," Housing Authority spokeswoman Jasmine Blake said.

A HUD official said the secretary hasn't visited to avoid inserting himself in a law-enforcement matter.

HUD has taken over housing authorities before—in Philadelphia for two years and New Orleans for more than 12 years—in response to fiscal mismanagement and other issues. Some former HUD officials have said receivership was unlikely for New York because of the size of its housing authority, the country's largest with 176,000 apartments.

In New York, HUD also has asked the authority to submit a plan to address lead-based paint hazards and other physical conditions in its properties. A HUD spokesman said the authority has received "multiple extensions" to its deadline for submitting the plan.

New York City housing officials said they had already thoroughly outlined their plan to address the lead and other issues to both HUD and the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan, which is investigating health and safety conditions in the city's public housing.

The housing authority has been under scrutiny since November, when the city's Department of Investigation said in a report that the authority had failed to conduct lead-paint inspections as required by federal rules and city laws for four years.

The authority needs upward of \$25 billion in infrastructure repairs, up from \$6 billion in 2005, according to city officials, a sum that has far outpaced federal aid from Washington.

Businesses Beg for Low-Skill Visas

Strong demand puts White House in a bind: honor requests or save jobs for Americans

BY LAURA MECKLER

WASHINGTON—Demand for low-skilled worker visas for the summer season starting Sunday is again far outstripping supply, with the Trump administration forced to choose between helping businesses seeking more visas or trying to save those jobs for American workers.

Some lawmakers tried and failed in March to secure an increase in the number of H-2B visas available for this summer as part of a large spending bill. One Senate proposal would have permanently raised the annual cap from 66,000 to 90,000, with no limits for certain jobs in areas affected by disasters. A House version would have increased the annual cap to 132,000.

The White House warned some lawmakers not to kick the decision to the Department of Homeland Security as they did in 2017, congressional aides said. "We did not want the discretion," an administration official said.

Nonetheless, DHS is now under pressure from the business community to provide more visas after the spending bill authorized the department's Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to offer tens of thousands of extra visas if she sees fit.

A DHS spokeswoman, Katie Waldman, said no decision has been made. She said the agency is looking at last year's implementation of the visa program "to determine how best to proceed this fiscal year."

The H-2B visas, issued for low-skilled, seasonal foreign workers, are typically employed by landscaping companies, Alaskan fisheries, ski resorts and vacation spots, including some of President Donald Trump's properties.

Backers say the program provides needed foreign workers, often in remote locations where Americans are scarce. They say the problem is par-



Seasonal H-2B visas are typically used by landscaping companies, ski resorts and vacation spots, such as Martha's Vineyard.

ticularly acute given the current unemployment rate of 4.1%, the lowest in a decade.

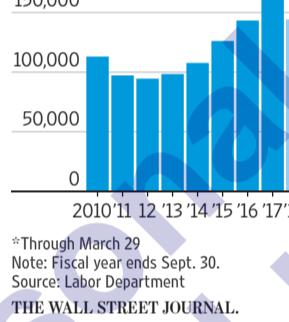
"We rebranded 8,000 vehicles and put 'now hiring' on everything we own. We cannot get enough workers," said Todd Chambers, chief marketing officer for BrightView Landscapes, LLC, a large landscaping company that has used H-2B workers for more than a decade.

Opponents say businesses should try harder and raise wages if needed. "We should want the labor market to tighten and employers have to work overtime trying to entice American workers, especially those who've dropped out of the labor market," said Mark Krikorian of the conservative Center for Immigration Studies.

Ultimately, Democratic leaders killed the proposals to increase the visas, congressional aides in both parties said. Democratic aides said that was partly because they weren't willing to import more foreign workers at a time

Foreign Labor

The number of H-2B visa requests by businesses for low-skilled, seasonal work is on track this year to surpass previous requests.



when Congress was failing to protect hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, known as Dreamers.

By statute, a total of 66,000 H-2B visas are available each

year, divided evenly between winter and summer seasons. In past years, Congress has effectively raised the cap by exempting workers who are returning to jobs they had in previous seasons, but didn't do so last year nor this year.

For this summer season, businesses filed requests for more than 81,000 workers with the Labor Department on Jan. 1, a record, and more since then. Many firms tried to file applications after midnight on New Year's Eve to be near the front of the line.

This year, for the first time, DHS conducted a lottery among early applicants to pick winners, saying it was only fair given the crush of demand. Administration officials said that applications cleared by the Labor Department by mid-February were eligible.

But several people who use the program said they were confused about why some petitions were included in the draw and others weren't.

BrightView Landscapes filed 94 petitions requesting a total of 3,500 visas, but was awarded fewer than 500, compared with 1,600 last year, said Sarah Powenski, vice president and associate general counsel at the company.

Officials say they are frustrated the program has been caught up in the larger immigration debate. "This thing has become more of an immigration issue in people's minds," Mr. Chambers said. "It's been attached to a third-rail issue."

Faced with the same situation last year, John Kelly, then DHS secretary and now White House chief of staff, fumed. He argued that if Congress wanted more visas, then lawmakers should have approved them.

Ultimately, Mr. Kelly allowed up to 15,000 additional visas for guest workers, though not until the summer was half over. He set a high bar for businesses that wanted to apply and described the approval as a "one-time" move.

New York's Sludge Runs Afoul in South

As idled train cars stink, Alabamans want human-waste deliveries to local landfill to stop

BY VALERIE BAUERLEIN AND KATE KING

New York City is famous for a lot of things: the Yankees, Times Square, bagels.

But 1,000 miles away in rural northern Alabama, it has become infamous for about 200 shipping containers full of sewage sludge that came by rail from the Big Apple. They have been rotting on train cars for six weeks, stalled on the way to a nearby landfill.

New Yorkers flush the toilet millions of times a day, creating 1,200 tons of biosolids, or treated sludge. Big Sky Landfill in Adairsville, Ala., has permits to take nearly all of that from New York's five boroughs.

The shipments have been coming to Alabama for a year and a half, drawing plenty of complaints from locals upset by the odor.

The cars recently got stranded in Parrish, Ala., as a result of a legal dispute. They are now caught in a fight about the legality of loading them on trucks and hauling them the last 25 miles to the landfill.

"It smells like dead animals, you smell it, and you're looking for a dead dog or dead deer," Parrish Mayor



Train cars loaded with sewage sludge have been sitting at a rail yard in Parrish, Ala., for six weeks.

Heather Hall said.

This is a little-seen part of daily life in America. Big cities produce more waste than they can dispose of. So all across the country, pipes, trucks and trains carry waste elsewhere to be incinerated, dumped or used as fertilizer.

As urban populations grow, cities are weighing how much they are willing to spend to dispose of or recy-

cle the one thing they are certain the city will continue creating. Some cities reuse nearly all of it. In Washington, D.C., most biosolids are turned into thermal energy at a \$470 million facility.

The mayors of West Jefferson and Parrish went to Montgomery on Wednesday to meet with Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey to seek help removing the New York waste from

their towns and assure that no more will arrive. They say they don't have answers yet. The governor's office didn't respond to a request to comment.

Over the past decade, private landfills in the rural South have agreed to take sludge from out of state. But communities near landfills like Big Sky are increasingly pushing back, saying the tax

revenue and jobs don't outweigh the negative effects.

At a recent public hearing on a permit renewal for Big Sky, one woman brought a bag of flies she said had been swarming around her home. West Jefferson Mayor Charles Nix said that once the sludge containers were transferred to trucks, they commonly leaked sticky liquid on the roads of his town.

Big Sky and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management didn't respond to requests to comment. At that public hearing, a Big Sky representative said the landfill has been in compliance with state law.

New York has halted its shipments to Big Sky, a spokesman from the city's Department of Environmental Protection said. It won't accept any returns, he said.

Alabama state regulators are expected to decide this spring whether to renew Big Sky's permit, after holding public hearings, soliciting written comments and reviewing the company's regulatory records.

Ms. Hall, Parrish's mayor, said she hopes the cars of sludge will be gone by the end of April, especially before it gets hot.

Gunman's Widow Acquitted

The widow of the gunman who slaughtered 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., was acquitted Friday of helping to plot the attack and lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation afterward—a rare and stinging defeat for the U.S. government in a terrorism case.

Noor Salman, 31 years old, sobbed upon hearing the jury's verdict of not guilty of obstruction and providing material support to a terrorist organization, charges that could have brought a life sentence. Her family gasped each time



Stephon Clark died March 18.

the words "not guilty" were pronounced.

On the other side of the Orlando courtroom, the families of the victims of the June 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting sat stone-faced and silent.

Within hours, Ms. Salman was released from jail and got into a waiting car without answering questions.

"Noor is so grateful. Her belief in the process was shown. She wants to get back to her son," her attorney, Linda Moreno, said.

Associated Press

Man Shot in Back, Autopsy Finds

BY ZUSHA ELINSON

The family of Stephon Clark, the unarmed black man killed by police in Sacramento, Calif., released their own autopsy report Friday showing that six of eight bullets hit him in the back.

Mr. Clark's death on March 18 has spurred ongoing protests in California's capital city and renewed scrutiny of police killings.

Bennet Omalu, who performed the autopsy, said the results are inconsistent with the

official account of the shooting given by Sacramento police, who said Mr. Clark approached officers with his hands extended, holding an object they believed to be a gun. Mr. Clark was holding a cellphone, and no weapon was found.

Dr. Omalu, a forensic pathologist best known for his work to identify degenerative brain disease in football players, said the autopsy shows Mr. Clark wasn't facing the officers when they shot him. Aside from the six bullets that

hit him in the back, one hit him in the side and the other in the thigh, he said.

"It suggests all the bullets were from behind," said Benjamin Crump, an attorney representing Mr. Clark's family.

Sacramento police didn't respond to requests for comment. An official autopsy has yet to be released. Mr. Clark was killed after police received reports of car break-ins.

On Thursday, the family held a funeral for Mr. Clark, a 22-year-old father of two.

U.S. NEWS

Congress Curbs DeVos's Agenda

By MICHELLE HACKMAN

Congress just gave Education Secretary Betsy DeVos everything she didn't want: a bigger budget and a guarantee that certain department offices wouldn't be cut.

Mrs. DeVos had sought significant cuts to both the department's budget and staff. But Congress didn't go along with her plans in the big spending bill that it passed last week, a sign of tensions between the education secretary and GOP lawmakers that threaten to stymie her efforts.

The result: While Mrs. DeVos's role as a crusader for public-school alternatives has made her a flashpoint, she has so far done little to achieve such a shift. Indeed, some Republicans have privately expressed a concern that Mrs. DeVos isn't an effective advocate for her primary cause, which is reducing Washington's role in education and expanding "school choice" by promoting learning facilities that operate outside the traditional public-school system.

"She's someone who's worked behind the scenes for the most part," said Mike Petrilli, president of the Fordham Institute, a conservative-leaning education think tank that supports Mrs. DeVos's school-choice agenda. "She hasn't spent decades being out front, driving a message."

Congress last week awarded the department a \$2.6 billion boost when Mrs. DeVos had requested a \$9 billion cut. She had sought to dismantle her agency's central budget office, a move she said would create a leaner structure, and to cut the number of field offices in the civil-rights division to four from 12. The spending package included specific measures preventing her from doing so.

Congress's spending deal also didn't address the priorities in Mrs. DeVos's initial request. Much of the additional funding for the department boosted initiatives undertaken by the Obama administration.



Secretary Betsy DeVos is finding her agenda hamstrung even in a Republican-controlled Washington.

acting on President Donald Trump's call to pare back federal agencies, is hardly alone in seeing her budget requests ignored, nor is she the first education secretary to clash with members of Congress. And some of her broad goals have drawn praise on Capitol Hill.

"I commend her for taking seriously her job as head of a large federal agency and trying to make it operate more efficiently," said Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander, chairman of the Senate education committee.

Mrs. DeVos didn't meet with lawmakers about the budget until a week before a public hearing where she was called to testify, leading to a rare public rebuke from a fellow Republican.

"It's hard to believe that people have been on the job for this long and they don't have staff that are understanding how the system works," Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R., N.J.), the retiring chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said at a March hearing.

sure, neither the White House nor Education Department officials lobbied for it with members of Congress.

"It's unfortunate that Congress has decided to make it more difficult for Secretary DeVos to pursue innovative so-

lutions to better serve students and taxpayers," said Liz Hill, an Education Department spokeswoman.

"She remains committed to that goal and will work within the framework provided by Congress."

Mrs. DeVos, who says she is

Although the White House backed the school-choice mea-

lures to better serve students and taxpayers," said Liz Hill, an Education Department spokeswoman.

"She remains committed to that goal and will work within the framework provided by Congress."

Mrs. DeVos, who says she is

Vermont Poised to Tighten Gun Laws

By JON KAMP

The Vermont Senate passed a bill that would heighten restrictions on firearms, including raising the purchasing age to 21 for many people and banning high-capacity magazines.

The bill, sent to Republican Gov. Phil Scott's desk on Friday, marks the latest move to tighten regulations after a gunman killed 17 people at a high school in Parkland, Fla., in February.

Vermont, despite its liberal reputation, is a largely rural place with a high rate of gun ownership and few historic gun regulations on the books. But the tone shifted after the Florida shooting and an apparent close call in Vermont that

same week, when police said they had thwarted an alleged, potential shooting attack by a teenager at a high school.

Mr. Scott said in a statement after Friday's vote that he supports the new bill, along with two other gun-control measures that are advancing in the Legislature, because he believes they uphold constitutional rights "while taking reasonable steps to reduce the risk of violence." A spokeswoman confirmed he plans to sign all three bills pending a technical review.

"As governor, I have a moral and legal obligation and responsibility to provide for the safety of our citizens," the governor said in a statement.

The bill that passed Friday,

which the state House had cleared, includes exceptions on the age requirement for people who have passed hunter-safety courses.

Regarding ammunition, the bill restricts sales of magazines exceeding 10 rounds for long guns and 15 rounds for handguns. The bill also expands background checks and bans bump stocks, devices that enable semiautomatic rifles to operate like fully automatic weapons.

Vermont is the second state to pass a sweeping gun-control bill since the Florida shooting, although lawmakers in many states have been busily debating these issues.

Friday's Senate vote was 17 to 13. The magazine limits

were a sticking point, which irked some senators who argued the limits wouldn't boost safety and would be difficult to enforce. The restrictions would apply to new sales, not magazines people already own.

Eddie Cutler, president of Gun Owners of Vermont, said ahead of the vote that he believed the new regulations would raise legal risks for gun owners without any beneficial trade-off in the sparsely populated state.

"We've had a good record as far as violent crime for the last 227 years," Mr. Cutler said, referring to Vermont's founding date. He said his group was ready to sue if the law passed, arguing it violates the Vermont Constitution.

HAVENS

Continued from Page One
years of central-bank stimulus start to wind down while long-dormant volatility returns and borrowing costs rise. Corporate earnings have been strong, but growth and inflation remain tepid and face threats like possible disruptions to global trade.

"The big burning question right now is 'Where is the safe haven?'" said Christopher Stanton, chief investment officer at Sunrise Capital LLC, a California-based firm that manages around \$250 million.

Utility and real-estate shares in the S&P 500, popular with investors seeking relative safety because of their dividend payments, have fallen less than the broader index's 8.1% drop.

But U.S. government bonds have been less predictable. Yields, which rise as prices fall, hit multiyear highs earlier in 2018 even as stocks tumbled from their peak in January. Then Treasurys rallied, pulling the yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury note down from nearly 3%, a level it hasn't hit since 2013.

For some analysts, the clearest explanation for the divergence is the unwinding of yearslong stimulus policies.

Trillions of dollars in monetary stimulus pumped into the markets by the Federal Reserve, Bank of Japan and European Central Bank over the past few years tended to smooth out volatility and cut short market routs.

"Most of these things performed as expected before, because there were no rate hikes on the horizon," said Joseph Kalish, chief global macro strategist at Ned Davis Research.

Expectations of rising rates tend to hurt the value of outstanding bonds issued during periods of lower rates and crimp the performance of assets like gold, which become less attractive to yield-seeking investors when borrowing costs rise.

The market is adjusting from an environment where there was little volatility in 2017 to a resurgence since February, said Quincy Crosby, the chief market strategist at Prudential Financial.

"We were trained by the Fed

Bolton Has To Wind Down PACs Before Job

By JULIE BYKOWICZ

WASHINGTON—Before taking his new job as White House national security adviser in April, John Bolton will have to wind down his multimillion-dollar political operation that is already in the thick of the 2018 election, according to the White House and a federal watchdog agency.

Under the 1939 Hatch Act, federal employees such as the national security adviser "may not campaign for or against candidates or otherwise engage in political activity" with partisan groups, according to the Office of the Special Counsel. The standing agency is unrelated to special counsel Robert Mueller.

The Office of the Special Counsel said Mr. Bolton cannot maintain the two political committees that bear his name. The committees had raised \$6 million by the end of February and had a little more than half of that left in the bank, Federal Election Commission reports show.

The political groups are called John Bolton PAC and John Bolton Super PAC. A notice posted to their websites late Thursday said they were "suspending all political activities until further notice as of March 31, 2018."

One unanswered question is what will happen to the leftover money.

"Even if the law doesn't require him to refund all contributions or cancel ad-buys already purchased, our democratic norms do," said Stephen Spaulding at Common Cause, a Washington advocacy group that receives funding from liberal donors.

Neither Mr. Bolton nor a representative for his groups responded to a request to comment.

At the same time, fears of a pickup in inflation, which sparked selling in bonds earlier in the year, have ebbed recently and market-based measures of investors' expectations for price increases have retreated from recent highs.

Inflation poses a threat to the value of government bonds because it erodes the purchasing power of their fixed payments.

"It appears to be a regime shift from last year," said Christopher Sullivan, a portfolio manager at United Nations Federal Credit Union. "The uncertainty level has compounded exponentially."

Mr. Sullivan said he had shifted his Treasury holdings into longer-term securities, which benefit from declining expectations for growth and inflation.

The yen has added 2.2% against the dollar since Jan. 26, making it one of the markets' best performing currencies in 2018. For years, investors have borrowed yen—because Japanese rates are comparatively low—to fund trades in riskier currencies that offer higher yields in a strategy known as a carry trade.

Now, many are selling their riskier assets and buying back yen, giving that currency a boost, said Bac Van Luu, head of currency and fixed-income strategy at Russell Investments.

The Bank of Japan's effort to boost its economy by keeping the yen cheap has made the currency a better value than the Swiss franc, another haven, Mr. Van Luu said.

Assets that usually rally for flight-to-safety reasons haven't moved in lockstep.

Mr. Haidar of Haidar Capital Management is now betting that prices of government bonds in places like Spain, Italy and New Zealand will rise, as he believes that a mild slowdown in global growth will force central banks around the world to become less hawkish.

Concerns about inflation and growth have hit bonds too. The gap between two- and 10-year Treasury yields recently shrank to its narrowest since 2007, a sign of weakening sentiment about the prospects for long-term growth.

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Expectations of rising rates tend to hurt the value of outstanding bonds issued during periods of lower rates and crimp the performance of assets like gold, which become less attractive to yield-seeking investors when borrowing costs rise.

The market is adjusting from an environment where there was little volatility in 2017 to a resurgence since February, said Quincy Crosby, the chief market strategist at Prudential Financial.

"We were trained by the Fed

to buy the dips, and it worked," Ms. Crosby said. Now that the Fed appears to be intent on raising rates and has called stocks overvalued, "the dip will have to be deeper before investors come in."

Others point to the unwinding of popular trades in recent weeks.

Some investors had placed outsize bets on more gains in areas such as big technology stocks, while wagering against interest-rate sensitive sectors.

Now they are being forced to cut back their positions in tech, while buying back bonds, as the government increases its scrutiny of Facebook Inc. and other internet firms.

Utility and real-estate shares in the S&P 500, popular with investors seeking relative safety because of their dividend payments, have fallen less than the broader index's 8.1% drop.

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WORLD NEWS

Palestinians Protest, as Gaza Woes Mount

Fears rise of a war with Israel as enclave's economy crumbles and 15 die in clashes

By RORY JONES
AND ABU BAKR BASHIR

GAZA CITY—Tens of thousands of Palestinian protesters massed Friday along the Israeli border, as Western officials warn the economic situation in the Gaza Strip is at breaking point, raising the risk of civil unrest or even war.

At least 15 Palestinians died in clashes with the Israeli military and more than 1,000 were injured, Palestinian authorities said. Crowds rolled burning tires and threw stones and fire bombs at Israeli soldiers, the Israeli army said.

Friday's demonstrations called for a right to return to homes in what is now Israel. But Gaza's flat-lining economy—battered by fighting, blockades and an intensifying power struggle between Palestinian factions—has further inflamed tensions.

Growth is near zero, unemployment is 44% and consumer spending has plummeted in this strip of Palestinian territory, sandwiched between Israel and the Mediterranean Sea.

Gazans live with three to six hours of electricity per day due to shortages and more than half of the strip's nearly two million residents receive food assistance from the United Nations.

The economic situation is so dire that some warn it could lead Gaza's rulers, the extremist group Hamas, to start a war with Israel. U.S. and Israeli officials believe Hamas started a conflict with Israel in 2014 in part because Israel and Egypt squeezed the group economically.

Gaza is on the brink of "total institutional and economic collapse," Nickolay Mladenov, U.N. special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, told



Members of the Palestinian Civil Defense carried a man who was injured during a melee with Israeli security forces on Friday.

Falafels Reflect Hard Times in the Strip

Customers usually buy Mohammed Sebakhy's falafels with Israeli shekels. But as tough times fall on the Palestinian territory, he has started accepting another sort of currency: The IOU.

Today, Mr. Sebakhy is lucky to make half the equivalent of

\$100 in daily sales he made last year. As patrons dwindle, he has discounted his falafels, laid off a worker and cut the wages of another.

"We are so down," said the 24-year-old Mr. Sebakhy, wearing a tattered sweater in his dimly lighted shop. "I don't know how long we can survive."

The falafel—fried balls of chickpeas often eaten with pita bread and hummus—is ubiqui-

tous in the Middle East. In Gaza, it takes on outsize economic importance because of its cost—just 1 Israeli shekel, or 28 cents for a sandwich—and a chain of suppliers and shops that mesh residents' livelihoods.

Fayeg Abu Akar, a food wholesaler to falafel shops and other stores, is increasingly delivering food to the needy rather than to retailers. "We have been in business for 50 years and this is the worst it's

ever been," Mr. Abu Akar said.

One of Mr. Sebakhy's customers he has extended an IOU owes him 400 shekels for the past few months. And one family in this neighborhood stopped walking past his shop as they are too ashamed to owe him money, he said.

"I can't be here knowing there's a family that can't afford breakfast or dinner," Mr. Sebakhy said. "I'd love to see people getting paid again."

the Security Council last month. "This is not an alarmist prediction...it is a fact."

Israel strictly limits the flow of goods and people in and out of Gaza. And an internecine struggle between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, on

which it depends for funds, has made the situation worse.

The authority's president, Mahmoud Abbas, last year began cutting salaries of Gaza's 40,000 doctors, teachers and other public sector employees in a bid to pressure Hamas to

surrender control of Gaza.

Despite the rift between Hamas and Fatah, both factions blame their economic malaise on Israel. Israel jointly manages security with Palestinian forces in the West Bank but remains in conflict with Hamas, which

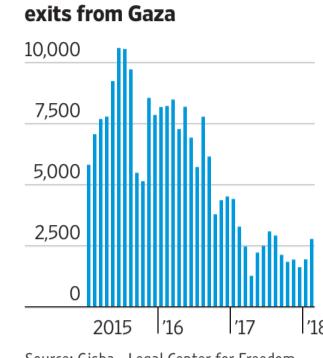
Israeli officials say spends tens of millions of dollars a year on its military.

Due to the depressed economy and weak consumer spending, the number of trucks crossing into Gaza from Israel fell to 8,205 in February, down

Economy Falters

Gaza merchants are making fewer trips outside the enclave, reflecting tighter Israeli border control and diminished economic prospects.

Palestinian merchant exits from Gaza



Source: Gisha - Legal Center for Freedom of Movement

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

from a monthly peak last year of 12,183 in January 2017, according to Tel Aviv-based nonprofit Gisha.

U.N. and World Bank officials also are now worried that U.S. cuts to refugee body Unrwa to encourage reforms threaten the jobs of thousands of aid workers in the strip.

Friday's protest had been planned for weeks.

"This is a message to Trump that our people will not give Jerusalem or Palestine," Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said at the event, referring to the U.S. leader's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. "This march is the beginning of the return to all of Palestine."

Israeli officials this week became increasingly concerned about the scale of the protest, deploying troops to the border and warning Gazans that soldiers would use live fire on those breaching the security fence.

"To Gaza inhabitants, Hamas is gambling with your lives," Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman tweeted in Arabic on Friday. "You go close to the fence, you put your life in danger."

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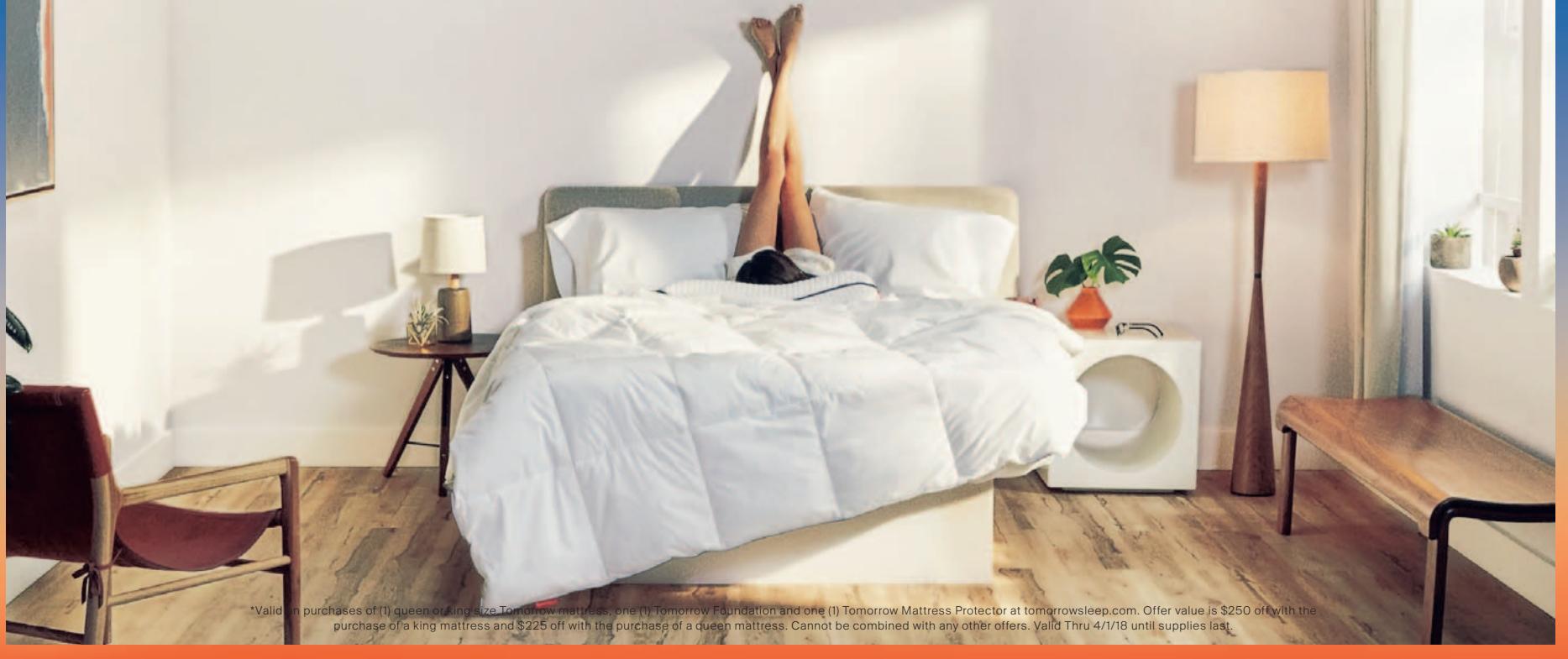
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PETER MUNK
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Today we celebrate the life of Peter Munk, an iconic Canadian, a titan of industry, and a beloved philanthropist. With audacious vision and a relentless drive, Peter transformed the industries he worked in, from stereos to gold mining. Known and admired for his signature panache, an incisive strategic mind, and an abiding respect for people from every station, he will be remembered and missed by the countless people whose lives he touched.



WORLD NEWS

Saudis to Help Reboot Afghan Peace Effort

BY MARGHERITA STANCATI AND JESSICA DONATI

WASHINGTON—Saudi Arabia agreed to play a leading role in starting a new peace process in Afghanistan, part of the latest U.S.-led strategy to find a political solution to America's longest war.

The U.S. and Afghanistan hope that Saudi Arabia can bring the Taliban to the negotiating table and act as guarantors for a possible peace deal, according to officials involved in the process.

The officials said they believe the kingdom can succeed where others have failed due to its religious clout as the birthplace of Islam—and historical ties with the powerful insurgent group. But even Saudi Arabia will have significant obstacles to overcome.

The U.S. National Security Council is spearheading this new four-nation effort, a NSC representative said this week. The group also includes the United Arab Emirates, a close Saudi ally that previously deployed troops to Afghanistan

as part of the U.S.-led coalition fighting there.

"On peace and reconciliation, Saudi Arabia is best placed to help Afghanistan," Afghan national security adviser Hanif Atmar said during a visit to Washington last week. "We are extremely optimistic that this level of cooperation will actually lead to concrete results for peace and reconciliation."

President Donald Trump's outgoing national security adviser, Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, hosted the first, hourlong meeting between the four countries on March 23. Mr. Atmar, Saudi and Emirati officials also attended.

An NSC representative confirmed the details of the meeting and said the four countries discussed ways to "cooperate to support the Afghan government" and "work together to promote a peaceful settlement."

The new initiative could at a later stage be widened to include other countries, the official said.

Saudi Arabia has a long his-



An Afghan soldier escorted an accused Taliban militant recently. The U.S. hopes Saudi Arabia can help restart Afghan peace negotiations.

tory of involvement in Afghanistan. In the 1980s, it backed an American effort against the Soviet occupation of the country by supplying fighters, weapons and training to insurgent mujahedeen rebels.

Saudi Arabia was also among few countries to recognize the Taliban government as legitimate, though it later

withdrew its support after al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden—a Saudi citizen—directed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks from Afghan soil.

Mr. Atmar said he believes the Taliban are open to Saudi Arabia's mediation. He also said Saudi Arabia could help by applying pressure on the Taliban's longtime patron, Pakistan.

But major obstacles to a comprehensive peace settlement remain, notably regional rivalries and major divisions within the Taliban insurgency.

Powerful elements of the Taliban have in recent years grown close to two of the kingdom's biggest rivals: Iran and Qatar.

The Taliban have nurtured

ties with Tehran, though Iran officially denies supporting the group. And the Taliban's political office, which handles the group's diplomatic relations and was established with U.S. approval, is based in the Qatari capital, Doha.

The Taliban haven't commented publicly on the NSC's new strategy.

SYRIA

Continued from Page One
nominated Central Intelligence Agency Director Mike Pompeo to replace Mr. Tillerson at the State Department, and John Bolton, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, is set to succeed Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster as national security adviser.

Messrs. Pompeo and Bolton back more confrontational strategies against Russia and against Iran, which provides Syrian President Bashar al-Assad with fighters, weapons and advisers.

Kurdish and some Arab

fighters from the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces have abandoned fighting Islamic State in the middle Euphrates River valley and moved north toward the Syrian cities of Afrin and Manbij to fend off Turkish military advances.

In the past month, U.S.-led airstrikes in support of local forces on the ground have dropped significantly. The U.S.-led coalition said it has conducted just seven strikes in Syria in the past week. Islamic State hasn't lost any significant territory in months, U.S. military officials have said.

U.S. officials warned Friday that Islamic State is already taking advantage of the battlefield pause to regroup, raising the prospect of its resurgence as a serious threat to the U.S. and its allies.

"If we leave sooner rather than later, then there is a good chance that this could be all for naught and they could come back," said one U.S. official.

In January Mr. Tillerson laid out a comprehensive Syria strategy in which the U.S. would stay in the country for the foreseeable future to prevent an Islamic State resurgence and contain Iran's regional influence.

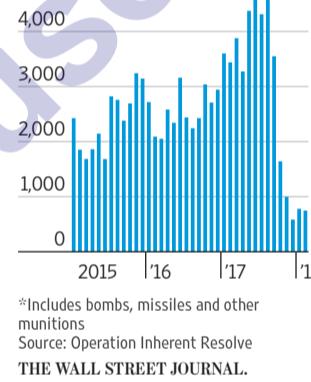
Mr. Trump now appears to be questioning that approach. The president has been increasingly frustrated with Washington's footprint in Syria and has said he would like to see regional allies like Saudi Arabia shoulder more of the burden.

The State Department last year spent \$200 million on stabilization work in Syria, including removing unexploded weapons and restoring water, power and electricity in the past year, and an additional \$225 million in funds were designated for such activities this year. The

Standstill

U.S.-backed coalition efforts to target Islamic State's remaining territory in Syria and Iraq have stalled.

Coalition munitions dropped in Iraq and Syria*



*Includes bombs, missiles and other munitions

Source: Operation Inherent Resolve

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strongly supportive of the State Department's efforts to restore basic services in the country as the conflict wraps up.

Stabilizing areas formerly controlled by Islamic State "is also about removing the conditions that lead to things like insurgency, that lead to instability," said Army Gen. Joseph Votel, commander for U.S. Central Command during a January visit to Raqqa with U.S. Agency for International Development director Mark Green. "So, from a military standpoint we're very keen to make sure that the follow-through in our operations is completed as effectively as the military operation."

Some current and former diplomats and military officials said they worry that abandoning the stabilization efforts could lead to a resurgence of Islamic State in Syria.

"One of the major implications of terminating this process would be opening up the area to the Assad regime and to Iranian-led Shiite militias, and of course this will instantly set the stage for the return of extremism and terrorism," said Frederic Hof, who was the special adviser for the transition in Syria during the Obama administration.

As part of the stabilization, a handful of U.S. civilian experts have been deployed to Syria to help restore water and electricity, repair medical facilities, schools and basic infrastructure with a goal of encouraging displaced Syrians to return home, working with partner organizations on the ground.

Since the Syrian civil war began in 2011, more than 400,000 Syrians have been killed and millions displaced.

The military, which has about 2,000 service members operating in Syria, has been

freezing of some or all of those funds, plus the additional spending pledged in February, could cause existing programs to halt, U.S. officials said.

"We continually re-evaluate appropriate assistance levels and how best they might be utilized, which we do on an ongoing basis," a State Department official said.

Mark Dubowitz, CEO of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a think tank with ties to the Trump administration, said Mr. Trump risks repeating mistakes former President Barack Obama made by pulling U.S. forces out of Iraq, if he withdraws U.S. forces from Syria too soon.

"Trump cannot have a serious Iran strategy if he allows Tehran to win in Syria," he said. "This is Obama 2.0."

—Nancy A. Youssef

and Dion Nissenbaum contributed to this article.



Syrian civilians walk along a destroyed street in Eastern Ghouta.



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POLAND

Bill Targeting Former Communists Vetoed

Poland's president vetoed a bill Friday that would have made it possible for authorities to strip communist-era officers of their ranks.

Philip R. Clark, 87, of Boonton Township, NJ
Philip R. Clark, 87, of Boonton Township, NJ, passed away on March 28, 2018, at St. Clare's Hospital in Denville, NJ. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Philip resided in Tennessee, Washington, DC, and Mountain Lakes, NJ, before settling in Boonton Township. Philip and his family spent their summers in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

Philip graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and attended Oakridge School of Reactor Technology in Tennessee. Philip was the President and CEO of GPU Nuclear in Parsippany, NJ; Associate Director of Reactors, Naval Reactors Division, Department of Energy. He was a Director of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, a Director of the Association of Edison Electric Companies, and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

A devout Roman Catholic, Philip was a parishioner and Eucharistic Minister at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mountain Lakes, NJ. He was also a parishioner of St. Ann's Church in Bethany Beach, Delaware.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2018 from 7-9 PM and Friday, March 30, 2018 from 2-4 & 7-9 PM at the Dangler Lewis and Carey Funeral Home, 312 West Main Street Boonton, NJ 07005. A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Saturday, March 31, 2018, at 9:30 AM, at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 10 North Pocono Road, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046. Interment will follow immediately at Holy Rod Cemetery, 61 Whippoor Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. Letters of Condolence may be posted at danglerlewisandcareyfuneralhome.com.

Philip is survived by his beloved wife Jeanne C. (Cushing) Clark, whom he married in 1953; his devoted children Philip R. Clark, Jr. (Lili), Margaret A. Gatti (the late Richard), Andrew J. Clark (Cynthia Roberts), Mary T. Clark, Michael A. Clark (Cheryl), Jeannie M. Clark, MD (Stephen Smolka) and Robert F. Clark (Lorena Palagonia); his caring sister Marjorie O'Loughlin; his cherished grandchildren Benjamin, Nancy, Danny, Elizabeth, Matthew, Katherine, Carolina and Robert D.; his adored great-granddaughter Lily.

WORLD WATCH

Poland, a reference to European Union concerns about changes to Poland's judicial system.

The ruling party, Law and Justice, which has made punishing former communists a keystone of its program, was "surprised and disappointed," party spokeswoman Beata Mazurek said.

Supporters viewed the legislation as an act of justice, but opponents described it as vengeful.

—Associated Press

CYPRUS

Action Leaders to Attend U.N. Talks

The U.N. peacekeeping mission on ethnically divided Cyprus says it will host an informal meeting between the rival Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders in April.

The April 16 meeting between Nicos Anastasiades and Mustafa Akinci will be the first time the leaders will meet face-to-face since the collapse of high-level peace talks in July.

Both sides have said the meeting doesn't necessarily signal a resumption of negotiations, but that it is a positive step.

—Associated Press

WORLD NEWS

URBI ET ORBI | Francis X. Rocca

Shifting Lines: Pope's Uncertainty Principle



ROME—For Pope Francis, the untraditional has become routine. Still, the

news Thursday morning was startling: Italian journalist Eugenio Scalfari, a friend and frequent interviewer of the pope, reported that the pontiff had denied the existence of hell.

Sinners who die without achieving eternal salvation "are not punished," the pope said, according to an article by Mr. Scalfari in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*. "There is no hell; there is the disappearance of sinful souls."

The Vatican later released a statement cautioning that Mr. Scalfari's article was a "reconstruction," not a transcript, of his conversation with the pope. But the Vatican stopped short of a specific denial, leaving some readers to wonder whether the church's leader might have contradicted Catholic teaching on so fundamental a topic as the afterlife.

It was an extreme yet telling example of how Pope Francis has shaken up perceptions of Catholic doctrine, drawing widespread attention from the non-Catholic world and causing turmoil within the church.

Commentators were quick to note that Mr. Scalfari's report was inconsistent with earlier statements by Pope

Francis, who, for instance, has warned unrepentant Mafiosi of eternal damnation.

Yet some found it plausible that the pope had "abolished hell," as one headline put it, because the idea echoed the pope's well-known stress on God's mercy rather than the threat of punishment as an incentive for good behavior.

Indeed, the same day that Mr. Scalfari published his interview, Pope Francis told inmates at a prison in Rome that the death penalty was "neither humane nor Christian"—a more categorical rejection of capital punishment than voiced by earlier popes.

The prison visit also displayed the pope's characteristic emphasis on social and economic justice, themes he has elevated above questions of sexual and medical ethics—matters he has deemed too much of a preoccupation for the church.

When Pope Francis does talk about these issues, he tends to put them into a social context rather than stress individual culpability.

He has denounced abortion as a symptom of a "throwaway" culture, like youth unemployment and neglect of the elderly, and made it easier to lift the excommunications of women



Pope Francis commemorating Jesus' death on Good Friday at St. Peter's Basilica, in Vatican City.

who have had abortions.

He has described the promotion of same-sex marriage and population control in the developing world as examples of "ideological colonization" by the West, but has warmly welcomed same-sex spouses and voiced compassion for those who decide to use artificial birth control.

In terms of morality, Pope Francis is "shifting the conversation away from saying, 'here are the borderlines—

step over them and you're off the reservation,'" said Christopher Lamb, Rome correspondent for Britain's the Tablet, a Catholic magazine. "It's a move from the institutional and the doctrinal toward a greater focus on personal conscience."

For more conservative critics, the pope's approach amounts to promotion of a "low-intensity Catholicism that can be easily welcomed by those far from the faith

and even hostile to it," said Sandro Magister, a Vatican expert who writes for Italy's L'Espresso magazine.

Part of Pope Francis' strategy has been generally to play down the importance of formal teaching. Under St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican's doctrinal office was the source of many definitive documents on major issues, including controversial questions of sexual and medical ethics. It also investigated

and disciplined theologians who deviated from orthodoxy. Under Pope Francis, both of those functions have practically ceased.

The current pope's most explicit effort so far to liberalize moral teaching has been in the area of divorce, specifically the rule that divorced Catholics who remarry without an annulment of their first marriage may not receive Communion unless they abstain from sex with their new spouses.

The process of change in that case has been time-consuming and circuitous, involving two international meetings of bishops, which failed to endorse a change, followed by a papal document that encouraged leniency in the application of traditional teaching without unambiguously revising it.

In general, however, Pope Francis resorts to less formal means, especially encounters with the press, for shifting the perception of the spirit of Catholic doctrine without changing its letter. The single most famous statement of his pontificate, made during an in-flight news conference, remains "Who am I to judge?"

—Francis X. Rocca is the Journal's Vatican correspondent. This column will be appearing from time to time.

U.N. Imposes Sanctions on North Korea for Fuel Smuggling

BY FARNAZ FASSIHI

The United Nations Security Council announced sanctions against North Korea on Friday despite plans for summit talks.

The sanctions target one individual and 21 shipping companies and 27 ships for helping North Korea evade international sanctions through maritime smuggling of oil and coal.

The entities were also included in the U.S. Treasury Department's sanctions announced on Feb. 23 aimed at curtailing revenues for North Korea's ballistic-missile and nuclear programs.

The sanctions will impose an asset freeze on the 21 shipping companies headquartered in the Marshall Islands, Singapore, Panama and Samoa. The

ships will also be banned from ports worldwide.

Taiwanese businessman Tsang Yung Yuan is subjected to an asset freeze and travel ban for helping North Korea export coal through a broker operating in a third country, according to the U.N.

The U.S., which led the effort for the U.N. sanctions, has maintained that the interna-

tional community must maintain pressure on North Korea even as it seeks negotiations with its leader, Kim Jong Un.

"The approval of this historic sanctions package is a clear sign that the international community is united in our efforts to keep up maximum pressure on the North Korean regime," Said Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the

U.N.

The sanctions committee's decisions are by consensus of all 15 members. China and Russia were on board because diplomats said the council's unity in pressuring Mr. Kim's regime had been crucial in bringing him to the negotiating table and averting a military catastrophe.

In the past few weeks, Mr. Kim has taken unprecedented

steps to rekindle Pyongyang's diplomatic ties with its neighbors. He traveled to China last week and met with President Xi Jinping and is scheduled to meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in on April 27. Mr. Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump are planning to meet at a summit in May to discuss denuclearization of North Korea.

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WORLD NEWS

Beijing Puts Pressure on Families of Uighur Exiles

BY JOSH CHIN
AND CLÉMENT BÜRGE

Muslim Uighurs who have managed to flee an expanding web of surveillance systems and detention centers in their northwestern China homeland are discovering they can't truly escape Beijing's reach, even in the U.S.

Tahir Hamut, a prominent Uighur poet and filmmaker who spoke to The Wall Street Journal last year about his family's harrowing flight from China's Xinjiang region, said his younger brother disappeared on Christmas Day, shortly after the Journal article was published. Two female relatives were later called in for interrogation by the police.

Chinese security forces are using cutting-edge surveillance and social control to snuff out a sporadically violent separatist movement in Xinjiang. Authorities there are now reaching deeper into the lives of Muslim Uighurs who have fled abroad, according to rights groups.

Ramped-up efforts under President Xi Jinping to silence critics outside the reach of China's police forces pose a challenge for Western powers like the U.S. that have held themselves up as protectors of Chinese citizens fleeing persecution.

Pressure on families of overseas dissidents is a standard tactic for China.

Uighurs are currently the focus of such pressures, activists said. Mr. Hamut, who now lives in Virginia and has applied for political asylum, has been critical of China's policies in Xinjiang—which to Beijing makes him a separatist. He said his female relatives were told they were interrogated “because we hadn't gone back to China and were involved in separatist activities.”

Several other Uighurs abroad said family members in Xinjiang had disappeared or been taken to new detention facilities. Some reported being called by Chinese police or contacted on social media and



Uighur poet and filmmaker Tahir Hamut now lives in Virginia. In China's Xinjiang region, below, there is a growing web of surveillance.

warned not to criticize the Chinese government.

Having relatives abroad is one factor that can lead Uighurs to be labeled as “unsafe,” and thus a candidate for detention, by big-data platforms being used by Xinjiang police, according to observations and documents provided by Uighur exiles.

“The Chinese government wants to monitor and discourage any activism among Uighurs who moved to Western countries,” said Dolkun Isa, president of the World Uyghur Congress, a Washington-based group advocating for the peaceful establishment of an independent state in Xinjiang. The pressure on family members in Xinjiang has recently become more aggressive, he said.

Xinjiang authorities didn't respond to requests to comment. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: “Social stability and long-term peace are the common aspiration of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang and are in the interests of every ethnic group.”



China has pressured some countries to return Uighurs—with some success, as when Thailand sent 100 Uighurs back to China in 2015, and some resistance, as when the deportations drew protests at the United Nations and in Turkey, which has welcomed members of the Turkic-speaking group.

Tahir Imin, a Uighur academic and journalist, left Xinjiang in February 2017, but un-



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

like Mr. Hamut was unable to bring his immediate family. After he arrived in the U.S., he said, police from Urumqi, Xinjiang's capital, called and told him to come home.

“They said, ‘If you want your family to be safe and your daughter to live with her mother, you should listen to

U.S. Raises Concern With China on Issue

Radio Free Asia, a U.S. government-funded news service that reports on human-rights issues in China's Xinjiang region, said in February that Xinjiang authorities had gone after the relatives of U.S.-based reporters for its Uighur-language service.

One reporter, Gulchekra Hoja, said police took away more than 20 family members starting last year, including her mother, who was kept handcuffed in a crowded cell for nine days before being released to a hospital, under police watch.

The U.S. government has raised concerns with Chinese officials about the relatives of the reporters, all of whom are either U.S. citizens or green-card holders, and about reports of a crackdown on Uighurs in China, a State Department spokesman said.

us,’ ” Mr. Imin recalled. Seven members of his extended family in the city of Kashgar were detained after he rebuffed the police, he said. His wife wasn't among them, as she had taken the protective measure of divorcing him after he left.

Mr. Hamut said distrust runs rampant among Uighurs abroad. He said he was disappointed in the turnout for a reading of his poetry recently at the University of Washington. With several hundred Uighurs in the Seattle area, only four showed up, he said.

Similar events used to draw as many as 200 Uighurs, but turnout has dwindled since the crackdown in Xinjiang began, said Darren Byler, a University of Washington anthropology researcher, who studies Xinjiang.

“There's nowhere that China can't threaten you,” Mr. Hamut said.

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OBITUARIES

ROBERT HAAS
1927 – 2018

Wine Importer Opened His Own California Vineyard

BY JAMES R. HAGERTY

Robert Haas spent 35 years as a retailer and importer of wine, introducing Americans to some of the finest French wines. Then he took on a tougher challenge: making and marketing his own wine.

As a wine importer, the New York-born Mr. Haas cultivated relationships with wine growers including the Perrin family, owners of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape estate Château de Beaucastel in the Rhône Valley of France. In 1985, he teamed up with the Perrins to search for land in California to produce Rhône-style wines. Four years later, they found the right climate and on hills near Paso Robles, 12 miles from the coast and halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The summer days were hot; cool air blew in from the ocean at night. "This is where we plant the flag," Mr. Haas recalled saying.

They established the Tablas Creek Vineyard with vine cuttings imported from Beaucastel and made their first plantings in 1994. In the early years, Tablas Creek struggled. It was far from the wine-tourist hot spots of Napa and Sonoma. It was producing blends of Mourvèdre, Grenache Noir, Syrah and other grapes rather than the single-grape wines that were more popular.

Mr. Haas had to learn to sell his own story. In his 70s and 80s, he hustled around to host tastings and meet distributors. He and his partners developed a side business selling cuttings from their French-origin vines to more than 600 vineyards in the U.S.

He died March 18 at his home in Templeton, Calif., at age 90.

The vineyard, named after the Tablas Creek that flows through it, averages production of 25,000 to



30,000 cases a year. The wine retails for about \$25 to \$55 a bottle.

Mr. Haas's decades of negotiating with wine producers in France and elsewhere had persuaded him that wine was an emotional business. "You can't just walk in, negotiate a price and walk off," he told the Wine Spectator in 1988. "Buying wine is not like buying Tinkertoys. You have to understand that the man just spent a whole year of his life making that particular crop and he's not going to part with it without some show over it. There's some discussion necessary. Even if there's nothing to talk about, there's something to talk about."

Robert Zadok Haas was born April 18, 1927, in Brooklyn and grew up partly in Scarsdale, N.Y. His father, Sidney Haas, ran a Manhattan butcher shop called M. Lehmann. When Prohibition ended in 1933, Sidney Haas switched to selling wine and liquor.

Robert Haas served in the Navy near the end of World War II but wasn't sent overseas. He graduated from Yale, where he studied his-

tory, politics and economics, and joined his father's shop.

One of his early ideas was to offer futures on cases of Bordeaux wines not yet available, including 1952 Château Lafite at \$39.50 a case. His father was skeptical, but the futures sold briskly. He later soured on futures. "It's a system that doesn't work except in the short term," he told The Wall Street Journal in 1987. "It cannibalizes itself by inducing speculation which eventually backfires."

After the shop's wine buyer in France died in the early 1950s, Robert Haas was sent to find a new one. Soon after arriving in France, he put his schoolboy French to work and decided he wanted the buying job. So began years of traveling the back roads of France.

It wasn't as glamorous as it sounded. Spending a day swishing scores of wines at half a dozen cellars and concentrating on their marketability wasn't the same as sipping a favorite while gazing at the sunset. He sometimes got back to a cheap hotel room too late to have a proper dinner.

In the 1960s, his father sold the shop, which became part of today's Sherry-Lehmann Wine & Spirits in Manhattan. Robert Haas tried working for a distilling company but found it wasn't a good fit.

In the early 1970s, he bought a farmhouse near Chester, Vt., and set up his own wine-importing company, Vineyard Brands. Friends thought it was folly to move so far from the action. Mr. Haas assured them that modern technology—telex machines—meant he could work anywhere.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Barbara, a sister, four children, six grandchildren and a great-grandson.

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

PETER DAILEY
1930 – 2018

Positive Spots by Adman Paid Off for Reagan

Peter Dailey, a Los Angeles-based advertising mogul and former college football player, had his biggest assignment in 1980: selling Ronald Reagan to the American public.

In crafting television ads, his aim was to show the Republican presidential nominee as an experienced governor with a calm, common-sense approach, not a washed-up movie actor with hawkish right-wing views. In one ad, Mr. Reagan said: "Nancy and I have traveled this great land of ours many times and we found that Americans everywhere yearn for peace, just as we do." In another, he promised to "get American business booming again."

Mr. Dailey had worked for GOP

President Richard Nixon's 1972 campaign, helping create attack ads that depicted Sen. George McGovern as weak on military matters and as a weather vane whose views changed with the wind. For Mr. Reagan, he accentuated the positive.

After winning the election, Mr. Reagan appointed Mr. Dailey as ambassador to Ireland.

Mr. Dailey worked for several ad agencies in the 1950s and 1960s. In the late 1960s, he founded Dailey International, which became a giant among West Coast agencies. Interpublic Group bought that firm in 1983.

Mr. Dailey died March 10 in Pasadena, Calif. He was 87.

—James R. Hagerty

FRANCIS BATOR

1925 – 2018

Hungarian Refugee Advised LBJ on Europe

Francis Bator was 14 when his family fled Hungary in 1939 to escape what his father saw would be a grim future there. His father, a lawyer, moved the family to London and then New York. Young Francis was dispatched to the Groton School in Massachusetts, where he mingled with the sons of the U.S. elite, before enrolling at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

By age 40 he was a respected economist and adviser to President Lyndon Johnson, dealing with international economic policy and relations with Europe.

State Department grandes tended to see these White House advisers as rivals. Mr. Bator enjoyed telling friends that Secre-

tary of State Dean Rusk had derided him as "the ambassador from Ulan Bator."

During his 3½ years in the administration, the erudite European felt at ease with the earthy Texas politician. Prof. Bator said in an oral history he met with the president "sometimes several times a week, sometimes not at all for two, three weeks."

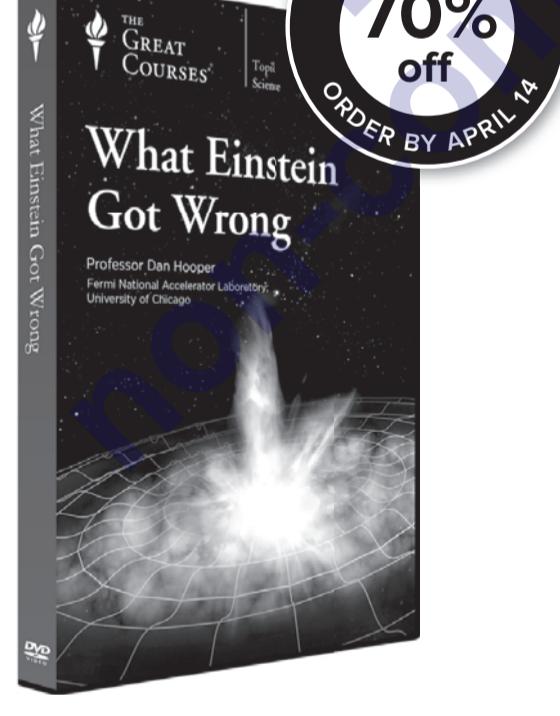
After leaving the administration in 1967, he became the founding chairman of the public-policy program at what became Harvard University's Kennedy School.

Prof. Bator was struck by a car in January while crossing a street in Newton, Mass., and died March 15. He was 92.

—James R. Hagerty

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IN DEPTH

LAND

Continued from Page One

As frustrations peaked, in extreme instances, some cowboys have taken up arms against the government for what they say are overly restrictive policies. Ranchers took over a National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon in 2016; before that, Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy mounted a standoff with federal officials.

President Donald Trump's Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke—a Montana native who arrived at his first day of work in Washington, D.C., on horseback—says he empathizes with ranchers. The Trump administration plans to lessen some restrictions on public lands that could restore access for ranchers. Ranching "is a tradition worth protecting," Mr. Zinke said.

Even those who support Mr. Zinke fear the recent moves aren't enough to reverse the long decline of an American tradition gaining momentum as more cowboys quit.

Since 1979, when the environmental movement kicked into gear, the number of ranchers permitted on Bureau of Land Management-owned lands fell from about 22,000 with 12 million permitted livestock, mostly cows, to 18,000 ranchers with about seven million livestock, according to the most recent government estimates, from 2016. The number of ranchers and cows on public lands continued to drop even as cattle prices stabilized and rose.

Environmental groups opposed to this type of grazing are glad to see ranching decline on public lands. They say Western ranchers have long taken advantage of a system that gave them access to publicly owned land at cut-rate prices. Over the years, critics have called the practice "welfare ranching."

The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service charge a 2018 monthly grazing fee of \$1.41 per head, compared with up to \$20 on private land.

The fees don't include fences, stock ponds and other grazing infrastructure ranchers say they are often required to maintain.

Environmentalists say the animals trample vegetation and foul streams, marring public land that belongs to all Americans. "Livestock grazing is like a slow death of the land and wildlife by cancer," said Erik Molvar, executive director of Western Watersheds Project, an anti-grazing group based in Hailey, Idaho.

America's Western plains and valleys were once endless pastures for ranchers, the backdrop of an industry wrapped in romance and mythology. But many small ranchers never owned most of the land where their cattle grazed.

Under a setup formalized over the past century, they struck deals with the government to pay for access to federally owned land to feed their herds. The percentage of land owned by the federal government varies among states, with Western states near the top.

In Nevada, the federal government owns 79.6% of the state, according to a 2015 Congressional Research Service report. By comparison, the federal government owns 1.8% of Texas.

The system meant ranchers could run herds over huge tracts of public land and didn't have to pay to buy and ship as much feed. When one field was partially consumed,



JAKE NICKOL/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Nevada rancher Wayne Hage is moving from his family home after a decadeslong legal battle with the government over grazing.

they would simply move on.

The government decided how many cows could graze on public land, and how much they could consume—down to the number of inches on a blade of grass. Still, the deals allowed small ranchers to survive, even as the cattle industry consolidated into giant operations.

The number of cattle nationally, most of it on private land, is about 95 million, up only slightly from 60 years ago. About a 10th of the nation's beef cows spend some time grazing on public lands, according to estimates by the Public Lands Council, a ranching trade group. Some environmentalists say the number is far lower.

Competition from private ranching operations and years of severe drought in the West are major pressures on small public-lands ranchers. Ranchers say they also face a threat from government restrictions.

"It is the lack of flexibility by the federal government that is 50% why the ranchers go out of business," said J.J. Goicoechea, Nevada's state veterinarian and a fourth-generation cattle rancher from Eureka, Nev. "I just hope to hell my daughters can continue doing this."

Ron Cerri, whose 400 cows roam over 70,000 acres of federal public lands in Nevada, said he and other ranchers spent 15 years appealing a proposal by forest managers to re-

I just hope to hell my daughters can continue doing this,' says one rancher.

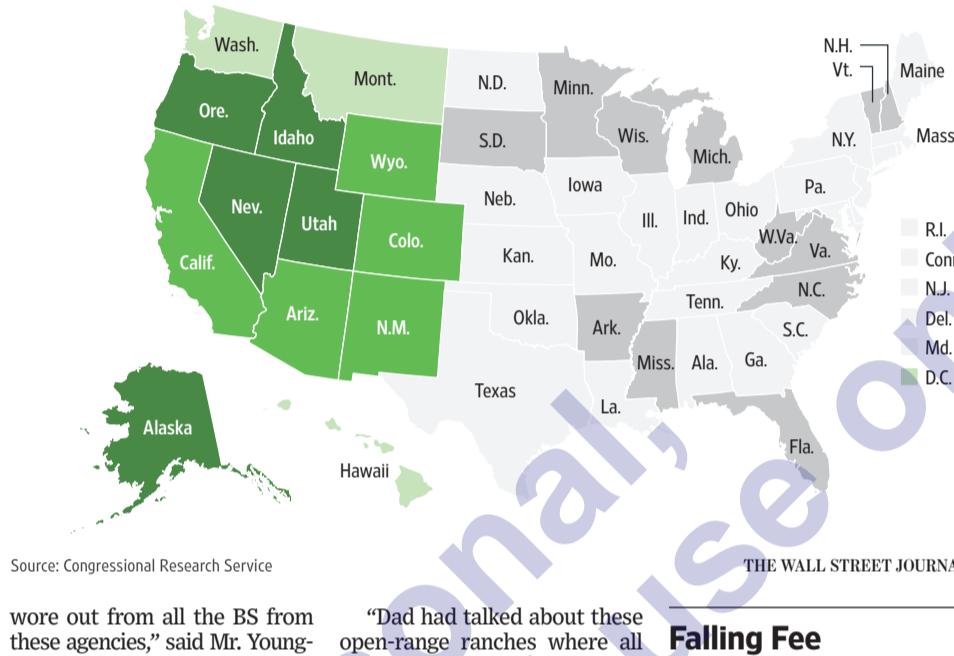
strict the amount of plants a cow could eat, such as from 50% to 25% of a stalk of grass.

After they paid up to \$500,000 in legal and consulting fees, he said, the ranchers won an administrative appeal within the agency to redo the forage rules in a way they hope will be less restrictive. "Whenever we deal with [federal agencies], we give up something," Mr. Cerri, 64, said on a lunch break from branding calves.

Lyman Youngberg, a Nevada rancher, threw in the towel two years ago. Mr. Youngberg, 79, said he decided to sell a ranch he bought in 1993 rather than pass it down to his adult children. "I was getting

Wild West

Percentage of land owned by the federal government, 2015



Source: Congressional Research Service

wore out from all the BS from these agencies," said Mr. Youngberg, nursing a beer in the Say When Casino in McDermitt, Nev.

Conflicts over grazing are rooted in the way the West was settled. The federal government offered homesteading stakes, as well as rights to resources including water. With beef prices high after the Civil War, many homesteaders turned to ranching. The government kept most of the land, creating a setup where residents could live on private property but go into public areas for work.

Congress passed tougher environmental laws in the 1970s. Presidents and Congress set aside National Parks and Monuments to preserve land for future generations. In more recent years, administrations have tightened access and restrictions on ranchers.

From his ranch in Nevada, Mr. Hage has seen decades of change. He came here in 1978, when his late father, Wayne Hage, moved the family from a California ranch to one nestled in a high desert valley, between Las Vegas and Reno.

The family's Pine Creek Ranch was 7,000 private acres, with nearly year-round access to 750,000 more on national forest and other public lands. Under a 10-year grazing contract, the elder Mr. Hage and his then wife, Jean, paid between \$29,099 and \$49,792 in fees annually to the federal agencies.

"Dad had talked about these open-range ranches where all the work is done on horseback," said Ramona Hage Morrison, the elder Mr. Hage's daughter. "It was a dream for my mom and dad as a place to raise their children."

The Hages' 2,000 cows grazed on a sage-covered valley framed by mountains rising nearly a mile into the sky, tended by the cowboys.

"Believe me there is nothing more free feeling than when you saddle up a great big powerful horse in the morning, and you turn him loose and you've got the entire country that you can go on and at your beck and call," said the younger Mr. Hage, wearing a Stetson as he sat in a corral.

The government's legal feud with the Hages began years ago when federal managers of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest said the family's herd was straying into unauthorized areas on public land.

The government also accused the Hages of failing to maintain hundreds of miles of livestock control fences in the backcountry. The Hages blamed a reintroduction of elk in the area for breaking the fences. The family said the government forced them to graze cattle in areas with less grass.

In the summer of 1983, forest officials sent 40 certified notices of violations and made 70 visits to the ranch to hand deliver more—including one for a

no-no—with grain-free ascorbic acid. Seth Leavitt, the owner, said he projects consumers will buy four million of his Hillsides, N.J., company's special holiday franks this year, more than double last year's sales.

The demand for variety has

made Passover more challenging for kosher caterers such as Naomi Nachman. This year, she whipped up dinners for 22 families including pizza with a cauliflower crust and hummus made from quinoa instead of chickpeas.

"They're meals Elijah would be impressed with, and he's a guy who's seen everything," Mrs. Nachman, an Australian native now living in Woodmere, N.Y., said of the biblical prophet whom Jews symbolically invite to their Seder tables.

Kosher food company Kayco

spent more than five years developing its line of Passover macaroni, lasagna and other "pastas." Early versions "tasted like cardboard," said co-owner Charles Herzog, whose great grandparents started the Bayonne, N.J., family business in 1948. Mr. Herzog concedes his ancestors probably wouldn't

have eaten any of it at the Seder table.

His mother, Surie Herzog, isn't a fan. Last month, when the company introduced a Passover-friendly type of rice made from cauliflower, "she wouldn't let it into the house," he said.

Mrs. Herzog is still proud of

her son. "He's made a holiday much more pleasurable for many, many people," she said. When it comes to her own Seder, though, she prefers to stick to convention. "I'm a staunch traditionalist."

Strict Passover observers

can't imagine going to a Seder without the staples, or one marred by the newfangled dishes. Josh Elberg is particularly leery of hot dogs, which have caught on in some households because they are easy to make and popular with children.

If there are any franks at the

two Seders his family plans to attend this year, he hopes his three sons can resist noshing on them. "I love a good hot dog," said Mr. Elberg, who is 35 and lives in Southfield, Mich. "But it's not like we're going to a ballgame."

"I'm someone who's dressed

up as a bottle of Manischewitz for Halloween," Ms. Kritzer said, referring to the popular kosher wine. "Shaking things up is my shtick."

that damages public lands.

The Hages filed suit with the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C., in 1991, alleging their rights to water and grazing land had been taken, and demanding compensation.

In court documents, the government argued in part that the Hages failed to seek proper permits, and that their cows had access to water. In 1991, the government canceled the Hages' grazing permit.

Gloria Flora, who was the U.S. Forest Service supervisor in Nevada in the late 1990s, said the problem for ranchers there has been the state's aridness. "It's not grazing land; that's the whole problem," said Ms. Flora, who left the agency in 1999 and now runs an environmental nonprofit in eastern Washington. "The rangelands are in dry areas where it's almost impossible to graze cattle and not trample the grass—especially when you only have a few places that have water."

In 2002, U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Loren Smith delivered an initial ruling that the family did have water and grazing rights to the land. The Hages began grazing cows on the public range again—despite not having permits, after concluding they needed to prevent abandonment of their water rights.

Amid the court battles, the elder Mr. Hage's first wife, Jean, died from a stroke at age 54. Her husband died 10 years later in 2006 at age 69 from bone cancer, as he awaited a final ruling on the case.

The stress of the fight "cost my sister her life and Wayne most definitely his life," said Herb Nichols, an investment banker from Reno and Mrs. Hage's brother.

The younger Mr. Hage took on his parents' ranch, and court battle. The next year, in 2007, the government filed a trespassing suit against him and his parents' estate in U.S. District Court in Reno.

In 2010, the Hages scored a major victory: Judge Smith of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington awarded the family \$14 million after agreeing their rights to water and grazing had been wrongfully rescinded by the government under the terms of their lease deal.

The government appealed. Two years later, in 2012, an appeals court overturned the Hages' \$14 million award.

A judge in the government's trespassing case found the Hages guilty last year, and ordered them to clear the cows off the public land, and pay a fine of \$580,000. That ruling is on appeal.

Meanwhile, the Hages appealed the water and grazing rights case to the U.S. Supreme Court. The court declined to hear a final procedural challenge in November.

That triggered foreclosure proceedings on the ranch's \$2 million loan. Mr. Hage has moved his cows to leased pastures in another part of the state. By the end of April, he plans to vacate the single-story ranch house—one of only two in a 25-mile long valley—that he shares with his wife, Yelena, and their two young sons and daughter.

Mr. Hage hasn't decided where his family will go, but says his battle with the government is over. "We don't have the means to fight them anymore," he said.

Sandy Druckman is planning to serve mainly kosher-for-Passover wieners and cold cuts to eight friends she invited to her Hollywood, Fla., condo for Passover dinner Friday night.

"I'm a modern lady," said the 83-year-old, who wrapped up her shopping in just one afternoon at Costco earlier this week. "I remember my mother shopping for a month and trying to get everything together. It was a chore." She does plan to serve matzo, though, since it is key to the story of Passover. The Israelites made the unleavened bread in haste as they prepared to flee their captivity.

These days, even that traditional staple is subject to experimentation on some tables. Amy Kritzer, a food blogger in San Francisco, likes to layer matzo with kosher caramel and chocolate, rainbow sprinkles and edible glitter—a dessert known as matzo crack for its addictive taste.

"I'm someone who's dressed up as a bottle of Manischewitz for Halloween," Ms. Kritzer said, referring to the popular kosher wine. "Shaking things up is my shtick."



Sandy Druckman's Passover spread includes kosher-for-Passover wieners and cold cuts. 'I'm a modern lady,' she says.

days with just matzo, brisket and four cups of wine," said Rabbi Mordechai Shain of Lubavitch on the Palisades synagogue in Tenafly, N.J.

Others hope a more diverse selection of food will win over Jews such as Ashley Emala, who is skipping Passover dinner this year in part because she can't fathom eating another soggy ball of matzo.

"It's about our liberation from Egypt," the 38-year-old from Montclair, N.J., said of the

holiday. "So why can't we liberate ourselves from eating all this heavy, beige food?"

There are some 55,000 kosher-for-Passover items on store shelves in the U.S. this year, up from 39,000 five years ago, according to Lubicom, a Brooklyn, N.Y., marketing firm.

Food manufacturer Abeles & Heymann LLC sells kosher-for-Passover wieners, which replace the corn-based additive sodium erythorbate found in regular kosher dogs—a holiday

no-no—with grain-free ascorbic acid. Seth Leavitt, the owner, said he projects consumers will buy four million of his Hillsides, N.J., company's special holiday franks this year, more than double last year's sales.

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OPINION

THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW with Harvey Mansfield | By Tunku Varadarajan

Manhood in the Age of Trump

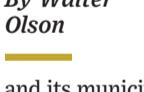
A Cambridge, Mass. wise and nuanced playfulness is Harvey Mansfield's forte. He's just turned 86 and has been teaching at Harvard since he was 30, making him one of the longest-running shows in this clever little town. A professor of government, he's among the foremost experts on Tocqueville and Machiavelli. But since 2006, when he published a book called "Manliness," the public attention toward him has focused on his uninhibited and mischievous put-down of Western feminists. "I think I've got the best critique that exists of feminism, what its nature is, and what it wants," he says of that book, chuckling immodestly.

Mr. Mansfield's study of manliness is acutely topical today, what with the #MeToo movement and the cries of "toxic masculinity" on college campuses, coupled with a startling masculine eruption in the White House. One wonders if there is a connection between the near-banishment of manhood from America's social sphere and its sudden prominence in the political one. Although, it must be said, there are strong men in powerful positions elsewhere, too, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan and India's Narendra Modi.

The author of 'Manliness' suggests the president's vulgar appeal may be the beginning of the end of the push for gender-neutrality.

"Let's look at the Washington, D.C., kind of manliness," Mr. Mansfield says. "Trump's manliness is of a raw character, the kind you find, also, in Erdogan and Putin, who are rough and gross and discourteous." In the Mansfield scheme, there's a hierarchy of manliness, ranging from animalistic strength on the bottom rung, then rising gradually to gentlemanliness, and then to "the highest form, philosophic manliness: the willingness to take on dominant opinions and subvert them by questioning and argument."

The "raw type of manliness," Mr. Mansfield says, "coincides with a political situation of polarization." A polarized democracy is "an invitation to the vulgar. I think what's interesting about Trump is not so much Trump himself as the people who voted for him." They are a reminder that democracy "wants equality, but the equality it gets tends to be at a lower level than



CROSS COUNTRY
By Walter Olson

Some Democrats in Trenton think they've found an answer to New Jersey's problems: a new government-owned bank.

Gov. Phil Murphy, formerly of Goldman Sachs, campaigned last year on the idea of creating a bank owned by the state and its municipalities. "A public bank will allow New Jersey to invest in New Jersey," Mr. Murphy said. He added that it would "provide capital to communities that, for too long, have been ignored by the financial system, whether they be women-owned businesses, businesses owned by people of color, or small businesses with big ideas."

New Jersey looks to follow North Dakota's example, but without the same low-corruption culture.

At the beginning of this year's legislative session, two Democratic state senators introduced the State Bank of New Jersey Act to turn Mr. Murphy's campaign proposals into reality. The new bank would be run by an appointed board, plus the state treasurer. It would be instructed to make its services available to all public entities, and it could enter into real-estate projects using the power of eminent domain. The bank would also be empowered to extend student loans and small-business loans.

For years progressive groups have advocated government-run banks, arguing that they would serve local users better than private banks do. A model often cited is the Bank of North Dakota, the only state-owned bank in the U.S., which was founded nearly a

the best." America could, he suggests, have equality like the ancient Spartans, "requiring everyone to be courageous. But that's too difficult for us and doesn't answer our needs."

We are in Mr. Mansfield's home, a garrison colonial hidden behind a high fence, and at this point in the conversation a bustling German lady enters from the garden, her face flushed from the cold. She is Anna Schmidt, Mr. Mansfield's third wife. (His first marriage ended in divorce, and his second wife, with whom he collaborated on a masterful translation of Tocqueville's "Democracy in America," died of cancer in 2006.) She gives the impression of being twice as tall as the modestly built professor, and at 43, she's half his age. With a certain amount of hamming it up about her duties in the kitchen, she disappears to cook dinner.

Mr. Mansfield, who betrays a visible pride in Mrs. Mansfield, returns to the subject of Mr. Trump's supporters. "They rather like and appreciate his vulgarity and his baseness, his impulsiveness," he says. "It doesn't bother them that he's rich and wears flashy, bright ties." They think "that this is how they would be if they were rich. Trump is an image of their notion of what money can buy."

In 2016, Mr. Mansfield continues, Mr. Trump won "a majority of white women—and women are attracted to manly men, I think." He agrees that there's a connection between the campaign for gender-neutrality in the U.S.—seeking, as he sees it, to erase all differences between the sexes—and the "hunger" that made Mr. Trump's political rise possible.

In Mr. Mansfield's view, Mr. Trump's success wasn't a racial reaction to President Obama as much as a backlash in favor of masculinity. Mr. Obama "had the scolding demeanor of a schoolmarm—very much, I think, following the temper of today's feminists. It's all a matter of correcting the behavior of misbehaving juveniles, and of condescension." Here, he checks himself, allowing that this observation "is a little unfair to Obama, because some of his speeches were pretty good, and he did have a vision of America and the way America ought to be." But it was not an America that "throws its weight around. That's precisely what he wanted to avoid. So, in his foreign policy, and in his domestic role as condescender-in-chief, he showed his hostility to manliness."

As private banks see it, state-owned banks succeed, if they do, because of unfair advantages. They're exempt from taxes, which may or may not be partly offset by an expectation that they return money to state or municipal treasuries. Public banks can also raise money at the lower interest rates charged to government borrowers, since they're seen as unlikely to default (and likely to be bailed out if they do).

But you don't hear as much favorable buzz about the German *Landesbanken* as you used to, given their recent performance. The Economist reported in 2015 that "this hybrid public-private model, which relied on public largesse in days past, has fared disastrously since the financial crisis." The promise that politically controlled banks would choose investments on a sound business basis has proved false. "State politicians sit on the supervisory boards, enjoying playing the role of banker, supporting favored projects and soft loans to companies that employ lots of voters," the magazine noted.

Alert readers might have noticed what Germany and North Dakota have in common: relatively clean, honest political cultures. Germany regularly ranks among the 10 or 20 least corrupt countries in the world (and ahead of the U.S.). Among American states, the measures vary. North Dakota has had more corruption convictions than one might expect, but it still scores well on most outcome-based measures. New Jersey, on the other hand, fares quite poorly.

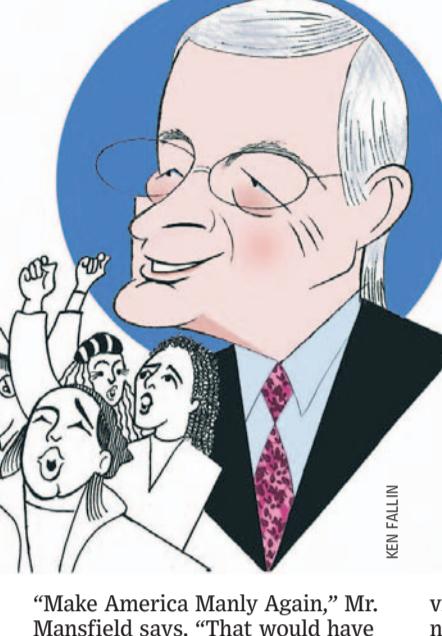


Mr. Trump saw the electoral opportunity. "Trump's not a clever man," Mr. Mansfield says, by which he means that the president has little propensity for abstraction or intellectual complication. "But he's shrewd. He saw that there was a way to be appealing, and to knock off the competition of his rivals in the Republican Party, by a display of manliness and an attack on political correctness." Mr. Trump is "really the first American politician to use that, to see that there was a political opening there."

Laughing lightly, Mr. Mansfield recalls Mr. Trump's masculine belittling of "Little Marco," "Low Energy Jeb" and "Lying Ted." "That was very effective with a lot of voters," he says, "particularly the less educated. You could look at 2016 as a revolt of the lower-IQ half of America against the upper half, which is dominated by the universities." Now in Washington there has been "a replacement of the people who reflect the values of American universities, where manliness is taboo."

The Trump election, Mr. Mansfield muses, is one sign that the steady march of gender-neutrality is slowing and may even be halted. "We haven't had a real political debate about manliness," he says, "and maybe Trump is the first stage of it." Mr. Trump presents issues "in a manly way, which is to say, 'Take it or leave it.' Like the wall—the wall is an intransigent object that justifies and encourages an intransigent mode of speech."

Similarly with "Make America Great Again," Mr. Trump's political shibboleth. "It invokes the manly, and allies it with patriotism," Mr. Mansfield says. "And the 'again' is a strong critique of recent presidents, because it states that we had it once and we lost it, thanks to you." Mr. Trump could have said



"Make America Manly Again," Mr. Mansfield says. "That would have been too much. But I believe that's what he meant."

The thrill of competition is an intrinsic part of Mr. Mansfield's idea of manliness, which suggests that, in his worldview, political campaigning is an inherently masculine pursuit. "American elections," he agrees, "have traditionally been, in great part, tests of manliness." Was the last election a test of Hillary Clinton's manliness as well? "Yes it was," Mr. Mansfield responds, "and she showed it a certain amount. Maybe it's difficult for a woman to do that in a graceful way, and to maintain her femininity."

Mr. Mansfield isn't sure whether Mrs. Clinton lost in 2016 "because of electoral difficulties in being a woman, or just because of the kind of woman she was. It would be necessary to untangle those different possibilities." He adds that Margaret Thatcher, who won three terms as Britain's prime minister, "is one of my models of manliness."

If Mr. Trump's manliness is vulgar, which presidents' were refined? He's quick to cite the Bushes—"almost courtly, but friendly; people who couldn't be pushed around and who had a controlled anger." One of the chief attributes of a good politician, Mr. Mansfield says, is knowing "how to be angry in an effective and impressive way, without losing it."

Mr. Mansfield doesn't see it as an accident that Mr. Trump's presidency coincides with an impressively indignant national movement against sexual harassment. #MeToo, he believes, "is really directed at Trump, and people like him, accusing them of being 'deplorable.'" (He uses that "Hillary word," as he calls it, deliberately.) The movement "represents a particular critique of

Trump for his sexual harassment, or at least his lamentable sexual reputation. It's against the aggressive male, the presumptuous male, the male who hasn't had his 'consciousness raised' sufficiently. That's Trump, and the #MeToo campaign sees him as the embodiment of everything male they don't like, and want to oppose."

Yet Mr. Mansfield sees a "contradiction" in Mr. Trump's manliness: "It's his 'art of the deal.' A person who makes a deal all the time is unmanly, just as economics is inherently unmanly because it always wants a trade-off." A manly person "stands for things, and when you stand for something, that means you're not willing to make a deal against it." He views Mr. Trump's recently announced tariffs as a way "to get him to a deal."

He doesn't expect Mr. Trump to change over the course of his presidency—to acquire more polish or refinement. "He's had a chance to do that," Mr. Mansfield says. "He's an unapt pupil, a rebellious pupil. But his alliance with the Republicans seems to be based on the realization that—and here I give him some credit—to make America great again he has to be a success as president."

Mr. Mansfield is, however, critical of Mr. Trump's dealings with Kim Jong Un. "It's a personal contest between him and this tin-pot dictator," he says. "The crisis needs some delicacy to obtain what needs to be a siege, and a blockade. That requires allies and aggressive, pushy diplomacy." Mr. Trump "doesn't have the patience, and he has that in common with the American people. This is in Tocqueville, so it must be right—that democracy is 'impatient.'"

Still, Mr. Trump's manliness is playing out differently in the rest of the world from its reception in America—and North Korea. "He doesn't seem to have the fans abroad that he does here," Mr. Mansfield says. "But in order for him to be successful outside America, he doesn't have to have fans. He just has to have people impressed and a little perturbed."

Mr. Trump has the world's attention, for sure, and "it's possible that he could use it for some positive purpose." Europe, Mr. Mansfield says, "was just falling asleep by stages. Now, Trump is worrying them. . . . That's good, isn't it?"

Mr. Varadarajan is a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

Politicians Want to Start a Bank. What Could Go Wrong?



CROSS COUNTRY
By Walter Olson

Some Democrats in Trenton think they've found an answer to New Jersey's problems: a new government-owned bank.

Gov. Phil Murphy, formerly of Goldman Sachs, campaigned last year on the idea of creating a bank owned by the state

and its municipalities. "A public bank will allow New Jersey to invest in New Jersey," Mr. Murphy said. He added that it would "provide capital to communities that, for too long, have been ignored by the financial system, whether they be women-owned businesses, businesses owned by people of color, or small businesses with big ideas."

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For years progressive groups have advocated government-run banks, arguing that they would serve local users better than private banks do. A model often cited is the Bank of North Dakota, the only state-owned bank in the U.S., which was founded nearly a

century ago as part of a populist farmers revolt. It has survived as an apparently functional part of the economic landscape in one of the nation's most conservative states. Another oft-cited example is Germany's *Landesbanken*, a group of state-owned regional banks known for midlevel commercial lending and for overseeing local savings banks (*Sparkassen*) run by municipalities.

As private banks see it, state-owned banks succeed, if they do, because of unfair advantages. They're exempt from taxes, which may or may not be partly offset by an expectation that they return money to state or municipal treasuries. Public banks can also raise money at the lower interest rates charged to government borrowers, since they're seen as unlikely to default (and likely to be bailed out if they do).

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I must get my sports fizz from

most corrupt. The Soprano State has provided America with some of its gaudiest and most colorful political double-dealers, with mayors in Atlantic City, Camden, Irvington, Jersey City, Newark, Orange and Trenton all having been convicted over the past generation.

A State Bank of New Jersey would be unlikely to content itself with the predictable and repetitive lending that goes on in an agriculture-and-extraction economy like North Dakota's. It would inevitably turn into a

Favor Bank for politicos hoping to lure subsidized jobs from the more vibrant cities of New York and Philadelphia. Once the initial buzz of idealism passed, it would become a tempting honey pot for the corrupt politicians for which New Jersey is famous.

In that sense, a State Bank of New Jersey really would be sure to create jobs—for prosecutors.

Mr. Olson is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

The Benedictines Hit a 3-Pointer

By Angela Rocco DeCarlo

I had no plans to watch the NCAA basketball tournament until my son Danny called last weekend to alert me. Porter Moser, the coach at Loyola-Chicago, is a "Benet boy"—a graduate of Benet Academy, the suburban Catholic prep school all three of my sons attended. So of course Danny was very excited about Loyola's chances for a big March Madness win, even though its team was seeded 11th.

Benet is the mill that turns out a prodigious number of National Merit Scholarship honorees each year, from a class of about 300. Those Benedictines, with 1,500 years of experience, know about teaching. And sportsmanship.

Coach Moser's first words after Loyola-Chicago won 78-62 last weekend over Kansas State—a victory that put them in the Final Four—were to thank God and then the players. Competitive sports clearly build character and loyalty—a beautiful enterprise. Being a female of the Jurasic Era, I never had the chance to experience this personally, but I'm delighted girls and women today have the opportunity.

I must get my sports fizz from

family. That's how I came to climb aboard the Chicago Cubs' historic 2016 World Series win. Without my sons' encouragement, I'd probably wallow eternally alone in the wilderness of opera.

Although I know less about basketball than baseball, after Danny's call I followed Loyola's now-famous 98-year-old chaplain, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, to cheer on the Ramblers. Sister Jean told reporters she filled out a Cinderella bracket in which her team makes the championship game. I am sans bracket. Even my husband, Dan, who happens to be a Loyola-Chicago alum, is bereft of paperwork to prove his support, pleased as he is with the Ramblers' success.

Speaking of which, what is a "rambler" anyway? And paired with a wolf as the team's mascot? Turns out the term "rambler" was once consigned to hobos. (Can one even utter the term "hobo" today?) The wolf harks back to the family coat of arms for St. Ignatius of Loyola. A 16th-century Spanish priest and theologian, St. Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus, the religious order known as the Jesuits, which has been deeply involved in education all over the world.

In any event, I loved watching these Ramblers last week chase up

and down the court, making impossible shots for three points, while Kansan tried valiantly to keep up. What I also noticed was how clean the game appeared. No one was beating up on anyone. When somebody was accidentally knocked down, hands were there to lift him up.

By emerging victorious, 78-62, the Ramblers became only the fourth No. 11 seed to advance to the men's Final Four, joining Louisiana State (1986), George Mason (2006), and Virginia Commonwealth (2011). No. 11 seed has ever played in a national championship.

It is always better to win, but no matter the outcome Saturday against Michigan, the Ramblers' exhilarating dance of sportsmanship in pursuit of the prize is memorable and heart-warming by itself. "He wears his emotions on his sleeve," Tom Hayes, a former Benet basketball teammate, says of Coach Moser. "He exudes nothing but positive attitude, and his players follow."

No wonder my son Danny is so thrilled. And so am I.

Ms. DeCarlo formerly covered culture, travel and entertainment for the Chicago Tribune, Las Vegas Review Journal and Disney magazine.

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

A Trump Choice for Veterans

It wouldn't be a normal week in Washington without a Trump Administration personnel melodrama. But this week's removal of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin is important on the policy merits, and let's hope his successor is more amenable to allowing retired service members to make their own health-care choices.

On Thursday Mr. Shulkin took to the New York Times to warn of "political appointees choosing to promote their agendas instead of what's best for veterans" by supporting "privatization leading to the dismantling of the department's extensive health care system." This self-justification exercise will not be remembered as the most graceful exit.

Mr. Shulkin has been on the way out for several weeks, and his euphemisms are about his months of infighting with White House and other Administration officials. The unsubtle innuendo in the press is that Mr. Shulkin was run out by the nefarious Charles and David Koch through a policy group called Concerned Veterans for America.

Yet no one except Mr. Shulkin is talking about "privatization." Concerned Veterans for America in a white paper has sketched out a plan to restructure the VA and allow it to focus more on the expertise its doctors have developed in, say, post-traumatic stress and prosthetics. The plan includes a premium-support payment so vets could buy discounted private coverage from a menu, much like federal employees do. A current vet who preferred to be treated for diabetes elsewhere would be free to make that choice.

At bottom this is a debate over political control and cost because allowing choice outside the system is expensive. We know that denying that escape valve often traps veterans in subpar facilities with unresponsive bureaucracies. But politicians have never wanted to take on the veterans interest groups that are attached to the status quo.

Mr. Shulkin indicts private industry though VA's single-payer system has been responsible for some of the most macabre health-care scandals in history. Manipulated wait times that resulted in death; an opioid doctor known as "the candy man"; recall the many horror stories in 2014 from Tomah, Wis., to Phoenix.

Shulkin favored the status quo of limited health-care options.

So what's going on? "Privatization" is in part a straw man to obscure Mr. Shulkin's own behavior, including ethical lapses on misusing VA funds on travel. More substantively, Senator Jerry Moran at a hearing earlier this year called out Mr. Shulkin for "double talk," by which he ostensibly meant claiming to support, while really opposing, a proposal that would provide more health-care choices for veterans.

The best bill before Congress is Mr. Moran's with Senator John McCain. After rampant VA scandals, Congress in 2014 created a choice program that allows certain vets to receive care outside the VA. But the system is based in part on where a vet lives and wait-list times, not the severity of the ailment or needs of the patient. The Moran bill would correct this dysfunction with new standards and streamline many programs that allow vets to receive private care. The bill also opens up access to telemedicine and walk-in clinics, among other useful changes.

President Trump has chosen Ronny Jackson as a VA replacement, and the rear admiral is best known as the White House doctor. The rush is to declare him unqualified, and we wonder if Mr. Trump has put his nominee in a tough spot. Rear Admiral Jackson probably felt he couldn't say no to his Commander in Chief, but he hasn't been immersed in the emotive and complex politics of veterans.

He will now face a long and tough confirmation process in the Senate, and Mr. Trump had better not start bashing Rear Admiral Jackson if he stumbles as the President has other cabinet officials.

But checking the right boxes on a résumé didn't help Mr. Shulkin, who by press reports couldn't run his own communications department. That sounds less stressful than Rear Admiral Jackson's stint in Iraq with a surgical shock trauma platoon. One piece of advice: Don't become a target with first-class travel, stock trades or free Wimbledon tickets.

The White House managed the Shulkin affair with its usual backbiting and disorganization. But if the goal is to transform the VA to deliver better and more efficient health care for veterans, then perhaps the real Trump mistake was choosing Mr. Shulkin in the first place.

White Privilege for White Coats

Americans think they have a progressive political correctness problem, but the politicization of everything runs across the Western democracies. Witness the new code of conduct issued by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, which oversees more than 389,000 health-care providers.

The new code, published this month, requires nurses and midwives to uphold "culturally safe and respectful practices." The board defines this as a "de-colonising model of practice" focused on "systemic and structural issues" and "challeng[ing] racism at personal and institutional levels."

Most controversially, the glossary states that "the acknowledgment of white privilege" is part of culturally safe practice. The implication is that nurses must confess their sins of being born white and having learned how to care for patients as a kind of political expiation before they can treat someone.

Not surprisingly, the code and instructions created a stir. And amid the controversy the Nursing and Midwifery Board has back-pedaled,

Australia's nurses and midwives get a new PC code of conduct.

telling the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that, unlike the code of conduct, the accompanying glossary shouldn't be viewed as policy. But the code also requires health-care providers to actively "respect diverse cultures, beliefs, gender identities, sexualities and experiences of women." And it states that caregivers must "acknowledge the social, economic, cultural, historical and behavioral factors influencing health, both [sic] at the individual, community and population levels."

The British Medical Association recently advised its members to "include intersex men and transmen who may get pregnant by saying 'pregnant people' instead of 'expectant mothers.'"

And earlier this month, Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky declared on Twitter that "some men have a uterus," repeating the phrase 11 times. The tweet got more than 77,000 likes.

Here's a radical thought: How about ditching all the gender-race-class mumbo-jumbo and treating every patient as a human being worthy of respect?

Attack of the Killer Cappuccino

Californians will soon get something besides milk and cinnamon with their coffee—a mandated warning that their morning pick-me-up may kill them. A Los Angeles Superior Court ruled Thursday against Starbucks and other cafes and gas stations, penalizing them because they couldn't definitively prove that coffee doesn't cause cancer. In addition to slapping a cancer warning on each cup of joe, the companies may have to pay millions in civil penalties and lawsuit settlements.

At issue is a chemical called acrylamide, which is created when coffee beans are roasted. It's also common in other foods, including bread, cookies, cereals, potato chips and French fries. But under California's 1986 Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, better known as Proposition 65, acrylamide is listed as a likely human carcinogen.

California's cancer list relies heavily on junk science, and with acrylamide the evidence is questionable at best. Some government agencies want more research into its carcinogenic potential, and the American Cancer Society does, too.

But the group also notes that even those tentative concerns derive mainly from studies that examined its effects on lab animals, not people. The doses of acrylamide given to rats and mice "have been as much as 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than the levels people might be exposed to in foods," the American Cancer Society says. The group adds that for humans "there are currently no cancer types for which there is a clearly increased risk related to acrylamide."

Californians can look forward to cancer warnings on coffee.

The evidence is so scant that even the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer admitted in 2016 that there was "no conclusive evidence for a carcinogenic effect of drinking coffee." Its review of more than 1,000 studies turned up evidence that coffee may reduce the risk of some types of cancer. This is the same alarmist outfit that thinks everything from red meat to working the night shift causes cancer.

But however feeble the evidence, Prop. 65 encourages trial lawyers and their front groups to sue on behalf of the state by offering them a cut of the civil penalties. Last year Prop. 65 cases yielded \$25.6 million in settlements, and more than three-fourths of that sum went to the lawyers. Trial lawyer Raphael Metzger brought the case against Starbucks and 90 other cafes and gas stations, working on behalf of something called the Council for Education and Research on Toxics. The same "nonprofit" and attorney also sued McDonald's and Burger King over acrylamide in 2002.

The Starbucks shakedown was easy in part because under Prop. 65 the co-defendants bore the burden of proof. The 7-Eleven chain decided to settle, paying \$900,000. For the remaining defendants, Mr. Metzger is now seeking civil penalties as high as \$2,500 per person for each "exposure" since 2002. That adds up in a state with roughly 40 million residents.

The case is further proof that Prop. 65 is a lot like a cup of coffee: Even if it doesn't kill you, it can keep you up at night. Or maybe it's further proof that California progressives are nuts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democracy Challenged From Right and Left

As I read William A. Galston's "Populism's Challenge to Democracy" (op-ed, March 17), I experienced a deep sense of relief that there is a sane, thoughtful person left on this planet. The world into which I was born, a world that admired kindness, courtesy, tolerance and respect for life in all its forms seems to have disappeared. I am an educated white woman, born in San Francisco, who voted for President Trump not because my husband or any of my five sons told me to, but out of fear that the Clintons would be back in the White House.

ARLENE RUBENS BALIN
Sonoma, Calif.

Mr. Galston has captured the more nuanced idea that while there is certainly a bad form of populism, there is also a very good and important, even enlightened, form of populism that is being flagrantly ignored in this country. This couldn't be a more important point as we slide into ever-darker political ineptitude in America.

VAN M. BORTS
Seattle

Does Mr. Galston recognize that his descriptions of populism apply equally to the left? It is leftist populists who give no quarter to nuns who don't wish to be forced to violate their faith by co-

GUY RANDOLPH
Savannah, Ga.

For me, the threats to liberal democracy in America are suppression of free speech on college campuses, an IRS used to mute conservative thought, a Justice Department and FBI that have political bias, expansion of the welfare state instead of job creation, an economically stagnant middle class, porous borders, a highly biased press, the expanded power of bureaucrats and identity politics. Let's see, all that happened under the liberal elite Obama administration. Should we really be fixated on the dangers of populism?

BENNETT A. SHAYWITZ, M.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Conn.

The Uses and Misuses of the 'Gatekeeper' SAT

Standardized test scores can provide some useful information; however, they are just one point in what should be a much fuller, more comprehensive and accurate picture of the applicant ("The Gatekeeper Tests," Review, March 10). The danger is in lionizing these scores and being blind to their limitations and the great harm that can come to individuals and institutions by fetishizing these scores without appreciating their serious shortcomings.

The problem is that the relationship between performance on standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT and later school and career outcomes, is at the level of a large group, in contrast to what can be expected for any one individual. This is very misleading since what we are interested in is how to predict outcome for a particular, specific individual.

Perhaps the most unfair and pernicious misuse of relying on stan-

dardized test scores as gatekeepers to professions such as medicine and law is to the 20% of the population who are dyslexic. Without accommodations such as extra time on standardized tests, dyslexics typically will do poorly—not because they do not know the correct answers, but rather because they are unable to finish the test. Dyslexia is a paradox. No matter their high level of intelligence, dyslexics are slow readers yet at the same time fast, creative thinkers.

Sadly, colleges and professional schools which, rather than focus on the whole candidate rely primarily on standardized test scores, will miss out on having extraordinary graduates who are both dyslexic and brilliant and who score poorly on standardized tests.

SALLY E. SHAYWITZ, M.D.
BENNETT A. SHAYWITZ, M.D.
Yale University
New Haven, Conn.

Getting the Science Right for EPA Regulators

Regarding Steve Milloy's "The EPA Cleans Up Its Science" (op-ed, March 27): Mr. Milloy, who, like EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, is an attorney, reports that data obtained from death records found that there was no relationship between small-particulate pollution and mortality. It is highly unlikely that such a database could show this, given the minimal amount of information contained on a death certificate.

Not the least of the shortcomings of such a study would be that they reflect mortality and not general health effects, such as asthma. Another is the lack of information about the quality of the air the deceased breathed throughout their lives. The author doesn't provide a reference for this study, so we

readers can't evaluate its conclusions or whether it was published in a peer-reviewed journal. I couldn't find a reference for the study on Mr. Milloy's JunkScience.com website.

BRIAN COMBS
Fort Collins, Colo.

Long ago I served on an advisory committee for a Fresno County supervisor and member of the Fresno County agency responsible for air pollution control, now part of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The California Air Resources Board was proposing regulations that would prohibit farming on days when wind exceeded a threshold speed. Such winds occur frequently during spring planting season in California's San Joaquin Valley. A series of no-farming days during planting season would quickly morph into a no-farming year. The committee presented scientific information including the universal soil-loss equation and asked about the science underpinning the regulations. We also asked a favorite question, "How do you know that?" A result was the postponement of rule-making and decades of research. Today we have rules with some science behind them.

NAT B. DELLAVALLE, CPAg/SS
Fresno, Calif.

CORRECTION

President Trump is considering the imposition of tariffs on \$60 billion in Chinese imports. This was misstated in the March 28 Politics & Ideas column.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"That one is just for fun."

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OPINION

The Wisdom of Oscar Hammerstein

**DECLARATIONS**
By Peggy Noonan

Easter, Passover, spring break, holiday weekend. Let us unfurl the brow and look at something elevated. It's a small thing, a half-hour television interview from 60 years ago, but it struck me this week as a kind of master class in how to be a public figure and how to talk about what matters. In our polarized moment it functions as both template and example.

In March 1958, the fierce young journalist Mike Wallace—already famous for opening an interview with the restaurateur Toots Shor by asking, “Toots, why do people call you a slob?”—decided to bore in on Oscar Hammerstein II. (For the record,

A 60-year-old example of moral modesty and candor—qualities we could use more of today.

Shor responded that Wallace had him confused with Jackie Gleason.) Hammerstein was the fabled lyricist and librettist who with composer Richard Rodgers put jewels in the crown of American musical theater—“Oklahoma,” “South Pacific,” “The King and I,” and “Carousel,” whose latest Broadway revival is about to open. He was a hero of American culture and a famous success in a nation that worshipped success.

Wallace was respectful but direct and probing. He asked Hammerstein if critics who'd called his work sentimental didn't have a point.

Hammerstein said his critics were talented, loved the theater, and there was something to what

they'd said. But he spoke of sentiment “in contradistinction to sophistication”: “The sophisticate is a man who thinks he can swim better than he can and sometimes drowns himself. He thinks he can drive better than he really can and sometimes causes great smash-ups. So, in my book there's nothing wrong with sentiment because the things we're sentimental about are the fundamental things in life, the birth of a child, the death of a child or of anybody, falling in love. I couldn't be anything but sentimental about these basic things.”

What, Wallace asked, was Hammerstein's message in “South Pacific”?

Hammerstein said neither he nor Rodgers had ever gone looking for vehicles by which to deliver messages. They were attracted to great stories and wanted to tell them on stage. But “when a writer writes anything about anything at all, he gives himself away.” He inevitably exposes his beliefs and hopes. The love stories in “South Pacific” were shaped by questions of race. The main characters learned that “all this prejudice that we have is something that fades away in the face of something that's really important.” He added he was “a fine one to talk”: he couldn't stop joining committees.

Does this reflect his views on interracial marriage?

Hammerstein, simply: “Yes.”

“The King and I,” he said, is about cultural differences. The Welsh governess and the Siamese children know nothing of each other at the start: “There again, all race and color had faded in their getting to know and love each other.” On the other hand, “Allegro,” about disillusionment

© CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES
Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

and professional achievement, carries a warning: “After you're successful, whether you be a doctor or a lawyer or a librettist, there is a conspiracy that goes on in which you join—a conspiracy of the world to render you less effective by bestowing honors on you and taking you away from the job of curing people, or of pleading cases, or writing libretti and . . . putting you on committees.” He added he was “a fine one to talk”: he couldn't stop joining committees.

Is he religious? Here Hammerstein told a story. A year ago he was rushing to work and jaywalked. A policeman called out; Hammerstein braced for a dressing down. But the officer recognized him and poured out his appreciation for his work. Hammerstein thanked him and moved to leave, but the policeman had a question. “He said, ‘Are you religious?’ And I said, ‘Well, I don't belong to any church,’ and then he patted me on the back and he said, ‘Ah, you're religious all right.’ And I went on feeling as if I'd been caught, and feeling that I was religious. He had

discovered from the words of my songs that I had faith—faith in mankind, faith that there was something more powerful than mankind behind it all, and faith that in the long run good triumphs over evil. If that's religion, I'm religious, and it is my definition of religion.”

Then to politics.

Wallace: “You are an active liberal.”

Hammerstein: “Yes, I guess I am.”

What connection does this have with your work?

“I think it must have a connection, because it expresses my feelings, my tendencies,” Hammerstein said. “As I've said before, a writer gives himself away if he's writing honestly.”

Wallace: “Would you agree that most of our writers and directors on Broadway and television in Hollywood are liberal and that there is a liberal complexion to their work?”

“I think I would, yes,” Hammerstein replied, honestly and with no defensiveness.

Wallace's office had just spoken to “a militant dissenter” from liberalism, Ayn Rand, author of the recently published novel “Atlas Shrugged.” She said: “The public is being brainwashed by the so-called liberal or leftist philosophies, which have a stranglehold on the dissemination of ideas in America.” How did Hammerstein respond?

He didn't like her adding the word leftist, “because you can be a liberal without being a leftist, and many and most liberals are.” Beyond that her criticism was an example of what's working. “I think it's fine that there is a Miss Rand who comes out stoutly for the conservative. I think

it's fine that we have all kinds of thinkers in the world. . . . I admit that the majority of writers in this country are on the liberal side.”

But he added, of Rand: “We need her to hold us back, and I think she needs us to pull her forward.”

Italics mine. Because liberals and conservatives do need each other, and the right course can sometimes be found in the tug between them.

Wallace: “The public does rarely get anything but a liberal viewpoint from Hollywood or from television, from Broadway,” and the charge can be “safely made that there is a certain intolerance of conservative ideas among liberals.”

Hammerstein, again undefensive: “I think so too.”

What's to be done about it? Nothing, said Hammerstein: “Just be yourself, that's all.” If the public likes Miss Rand, “there will be a Miss Rand trend.” Let the problem work its way out in a free country.

Hammerstein said he tries sometimes to vote Republican “just for the sake of switching—just for the sake of telling myself I'm not a party man,” which he doesn't want to be. “But somehow or other I always wind up voting Democratic.” Balancing the budget bores him. “I have an idea that the more liberal Democratic tendency—to borrow and owe money is healthier for us.” Most big corporations borrow, and they make progress with the money. When the U.S. borrows money, Hammerstein said, he felt “the people in the lower income bracket get the most out of it. But I'm no economist—this is merely a guess.”

We're all guessing, and working on instinct and experience.

Moral modesty and candor are good to see.

In our public figures, especially our political ones, they are hard to find. I offer Hammerstein's old words as an example—a prompter—of what they sound like.

A radiant Easter, a beautiful Passover to my radiant and beautiful readers.

The Best Way to Learn Gun Safety Is With Real Guns

By Daniel Lee

Recently I found a fascinating remnant of America's long relationship with guns: a 1956 Life magazine photo essay about a conservation officer teaching firearm safety at an Indiana elementary school. The officer shows the kids his service revolver, a shotgun and a high-powered rifle. He lets 7-year-olds handle the guns, draw their bolt actions, feel their heft compared with the plastic toys they have at home. The kids' awe and excitement sets their faces alight.

It's familiar scene for me, since I used to teach riflery at a YMCA summer camp in the 1970s. An interesting thing about these photos, though: There isn't a girl in sight. Apparently only boys took part.

Today, gender segregation is all but dead. In many ways that's good, but it can complicate the job of teaching lessons that are unique to boys—like don't use your size, strength and outside voice to get your way.

One result has been a polarization of manhood. The gentle, sharing guys congregate to one side, while the never-ask-directions fellows stomp off, swearing, to the other side. The center is starting to look as empty as Dodge City on the day of a gunfight.

We need our sons to repopulate that manhood middle. Teaching them firearms skills might help do that. It isn't only about danger and power, which boys instinctively love, but also control, which they must be taught. That doesn't mean they all react the same way, or that no girls overlap into this category. But like it or not, guns are catnip for most boys.

We laugh about them shooting each other with sticks, until years later a tiny number of them, fonder painfully in an onrushing

manhood we haven't prepared them for, start shooting at gang rivals or their schoolmates. Last week another young man shot two students at a high school in Maryland.

Boys who murder are statistically rare, but male aggression is a broader problem. Society used to understand the need to channel and discipline it. That meant athletics, serious academics, military service, even monastic life. In almost every historical culture, boys of a certain age were separated out for stern and strenuous lessons in controlling their violent impulses.

The YMCA riflery lessons I taught might have been a tiny remnant of that tradition. We used single-shot, bolt-action .22 rifles. The first day was all about safety, meaning the first round wasn't usually fired until day two. The class was much less about marksmanship than establishing firm habits of safe gun handling—bolt open, safety on, finger off the trigger, always pointed downrange.

Important things are often the least discussed precisely because so many individuals have a stake in not calling attention to them.

When LBJ sought to retaliate against European import restrictions on U.S. frozen chicken, a United Auto Workers chief caught his ear with complaints about a Volkswagen pickup truck (based on the VW microbus) then arriving on U.S. shores. Voilà. Fifty-five years later, the 25% “chicken tax” is why the Big Three have morphed into

Even so, the kids, age 8 to 12, had a hard time restraining their excitement. I found the best way to keep them in order was to withhold shooting privileges and to offer a big prize at the end of the class. If they behaved themselves, I promised to shoot my .357 magnum revolver for them.

Wielding force is nothing compared with the power of controlling, disciplining and managing it.

This was a loud, powerful gun. You could physically feel the discharge from a few feet away. Hands over their ears, eyes shining, the kids loved it—especially when I blew up some water-filled milk jugs. This is an old trick; water doesn't compress, so it blasts the container apart very satisfactorily when struck

by a decent sized bullet. The kids oohed and laughed with delight.

When my own kids attended a Y camp in the 2000s, they shot soda cans with air-rifles. *Whisp. Spat.* It isn't quite the same. Sure, they learned precision, fine-muscle and breath control, even safety, but missing was the invaluable lesson of grasping and managing raw power.

In no way is riflery class a complete solution to America's problem of boys turning deadly. The shooter in Parkland, Fla., was apparently in a National Rifle Association shooting club at one point, though it was an air-rifle class.

But the point really isn't about the guns. We've tried to suppress the male hunger for power as pathological, instead of recognizing its ubiquity and teaching boys how to manage it. So it recurs in more-toxic forms. Some portion of the #MeToo movement was sparked by abusive men who were never taught how to manage their sexual urges.

That America's gun culture has become fixated on military-style weapons may be another symptom.

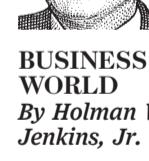
The final Life magazine photos from that 1956 gun-safety class show the officer taking the kids and the rifle outside to shoot a water-filled metal can. It detonates spectacularly; one picture catches it in mid-explosion as the gape-mouthed kids watch in the background. Another picture shows them handling the blasted shards with astonishment.

Boys love this kind of destruction, which may seem off-putting. Still, it can imprint on them the terrible danger of these weapons.

Kids, especially boys, shouldn't be kept strictly away from firearms. Instead guns can be used to teach them that merely wielding force is nothing compared with the power of controlling, disciplining and managing it. That's a valuable lesson for boys as they turn into men—even if they never touch another gun.

Mr. Lee is an Indianapolis writer.

Your Pickup Truck Takes You for a Ride

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

Important things are often the least discussed precisely because so many individuals have a stake in not calling attention to them.

When LBJ sought to retaliate against European import restrictions on U.S. frozen chicken, a United Auto Workers chief caught his ear with complaints about a Volkswagen pickup truck (based on the VW microbus) then arriving on U.S. shores. Voilà. Fifty-five years later, the 25% “chicken tax” is why the Big Three have morphed into

lucrative pickup-truck companies attached to semi-embarrassing sedan businesses that barely break even. And now we know Donald Trump's trade policy intends to keep it that way.

Over the years, Detroit's bizarre business model has been steadily cemented into place with numerous acts of congressional and regulatory opportunism. The chicken tax is a kludge that helped the Big Three survive their weird obligation to patronize a UAW labor monopoly while foreign-born auto makers are free to tap a competitive U.S. labor market. The chicken tax helped Detroit endure fuel-economy rules that required it to build money-losing small cars in high-cost domestic factories.

Today, the chicken tax goes a long way toward explaining U.S. pickup-truck culture—why millions of American males clog up suburbia with overbuilt, inefficient, single-person transportation vehicles disguised as “work” vehicles.

Detroit has even coined the term “never-never trucks” for the millions of pickups that will never haul a trailer or be taken off-road or carry anything much heavier than the owner's fishing gear. These trucks are sturdy enough for the work they seldom do, but are also the most ungainly, ill-handling vehicles on the road for the purposes to which they are actually put. And for the privilege, their buyers pay markups in excess of \$10,000 a truck, keeping the manufacturers swimming in profits even while the Big Three dole out sedans to the public practically at cost.

The chicken tax explains why interesting, diverse, drivable pickups that sell by the millions in the rest of the world are unavailable in the U.S. market, like the Toyota Hilux, VW Amarok and the Mercedes X-class.

It explains why, even though trucks are the most profitable and largest-selling vehicle category, Americans have only six brands to choose from—and 30-plus brands of sedan.

Trump's ‘chicken tax’ extension makes suckers out of U.S. truck buyers.

It explains why the VW Tanoak, a prototype pickup that wowed visitors at the New York Auto Show this week, won't be coming to the U.S., ever.

It explains why the trans-Pacific trade deal, opposed by both presidential candidates in 2016, perhaps never stood a chance. From the get-go, negotiators stirred up a hornet's nest by trying to lure Japan and Thailand (a global capital of light-truck production) into the deal by promising to phase out the U.S. chicken tax on pickups.

It explains the modified, limited trade warfare of the Trump administration. This week the White House announced its latest triumph, an agreement with South Korea to extend the tax until 2041.

This “victory” will cost Americans thousands of dollars each on future pickup-truck purchases. And so much

for the tantalizing promise of a Hyundai pickup anytime soon.

The sophisticated media's tone is already shifting on Trumpian trade policy. Two weeks ago, Mr. Trump was leading the world into a cataclysmic trade war. Now, especially on the left, he's a paper tiger on trade.

The Trump trade agenda is a “shadow play. . . . The concessions wrung out of the participating countries turn out to be negligible at best,” complains a *New Republic* writer.

This at least gets the nature of Donald Trump's trade policy right. He, like most politicians, is not really so focused on expanding or freeing up trade. He likes dispensing goodies from the favor factory. The pockets of U.S. consumers are picked for the benefit of specific U.S. companies and industries.

Trade economists love retelling the chicken-tax story, but the tax's quirky historical antecedents actually couldn't matter less today. A lot more relevant are the Japanese arrival in the U.S. car market, the volatility of oil prices that began in the 1970s, and the U.S. political class's growing reliance on the auto sector to serve as regulatory whipping boy for everything from climate change to the Iraq war.

No recent Congress or administration (including Texan George W. Bush's) has been able to pass up the opportunity to score points by loading the auto industry with new burdens. The chicken tax—and the excessive domestic pickup profits it fosters—has been and apparently will remain the industry's payback for putting up with such treatment.

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SPORTS

NCAA TOURNAMENT

The Road to Final Four Gets Longer

The ever-increasing travel demands for players are a quandary for the NCAA, schools

BY RACHEL BACHMAN AND ANDREW BEATON

WICHITA STATE had plenty of incentives to leave the Missouri Valley Conference, its home since 1945. Its move to the American Athletic Conference before this season promised better competition and more exposure—along with hopes for the type of big-time bucks the MVC couldn't offer.

Its men's basketball team got an extra burden along with the move: five more travel days. The Shockers spent 39 days at away games or in transit in 2017-18, not including a three-day trip to San Diego for a first-round NCAA tournament game.

That's a lot of time off campus for players that that college-sports leaders—facing probing questions about academics and amateurism—insist are students first, and then athletes.

"I think of it as over a month gone," says Darren Boatright, Wichita State's athletic director. "And that's significant, and something we should consider and look at and monitor."

Wichita State's season is a window into the reality faced by the 351 Division I basketball programs, including the ones in the NCAA tournament's Final Four. The event begins Saturday in San Antonio with No. 11 seed Loyola against No. 3 seed Michigan before No. 1s Villanova and Kansas tip off for a spot in the final. This event is the climax in a busy calendar that has only grown more jam-packed for the players—and lucrative for the NCAA. Broadcast-rights fees for tournament games earn the NCAA most of its \$1 billion in annual revenue.

Travel itineraries for eight top-25 teams, reviewed by The Wall Street Journal after public records requests, tell the story of students who spend extended periods of time out of the classroom and on airplanes or in hotels. They spend more than a month away from campus over the course of the season, often returning in the wee hours of the morning. And that's in addition to the extensive time spent practicing, training, receiving medical treatment and playing games at home.

"It's a huge problem," NCAA president Mark Emmert said in a news conference at the Final Four. Emmert said he worries about TV networks' growing appetite for live-sports content and the ripple effects on athletes.

"We worry about it with these



TYLER LARIVIÈRE/CHICAGO SUN-TIMES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Basketball-Season Creep

The average number of games a men's college basketball team plays has risen steadily.

Top five conferences with increase of games

Percentage increase in games since 1997-98 season

(Average games played this season)

Mid-American	20.5% (33.3)
Mid-Eastern Athletic	19.4% (33.0)
West Coast	18.4% (33.6)
Big South	18.1% (32.9)
Southern	17.5% (32.9)

The power five conferences

Big 12	15.1% (34.9)
Pac 12	9.2% (33.4)
SEC	9.0% (34.1)
Big 10	6.1% (33.9)
ACC	4.7% (34.3)

Source: Stats LLC
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

games, the tournament," Emmert said. "How can you make it all fit and still not be utterly disruptive of that experience? It's hard."

Emmert and other college-sports

leaders have rejected calls to share more of that revenue with the players who draw the eyeballs to the NCAA tournament. NCAA rules limit player compensation mainly to tuition, room, board and minor expenses. The boilerplate response is simple: Amateurism is a foundation for college athletics, and these athletes receive valuable educations.

Yet those same leaders have approved of the expanded seasons and longer trips that make it more difficult for athletes to be students and bring in more money every year.

NCAA rules limit athletic-related activities to no more than four hours per day and 20 hours per week. That does not include travel time.

Records show the extent of those travels. The eight schools reviewed by the Journal traveled an average of more than 42 days this season. For the schools in this weekend's Final Four, the travel time only escalates—a welcome trip, no doubt, but with the potential to add another week to the schools' respective tallies.

Those figures are only growing. The number of games per season has steadily increased in recent years. Travel time has spiked even more in the last decade amid a flurry of conference expansion and movement. More prominent conferences generally command higher TV-rights fees, which in turn funnel money back to mem-

ber schools' athletic departments. But the same shift has favored strategic peers over geographic ones, setting up more games with far-flung opponents.

"Playing college basketball is a full-time job," says Orin Starn, a cultural anthropology professor at Duke who has suggested that his school drop down to Division III, a far more modest endeavor that offers no athletic scholarships.

The fact that games always take priority over class says a lot about the priorities of our universities right now."

Teams in the Big 12 Conference, home to Final Four team Kansas, play an average of one more game a season than they did a decade ago and 4.6 more games than 20 years ago, according to data from Stats LLC. West Coast Conference teams play 5.2 more games, an 18% increase from the late 1990s.

Marcus Garrett, a freshman guard for Kansas, said his college basketball career brought "way more travel than what I expected." He said he's learned to coordinate with professors and get work done ahead of missed class time.

And more than ever, teams are traveling farther. West Virginia's move from the Big East to the Big 12 nearly tripled its average distance from conference opponents. Wichita State's new conference foes are about 76% farther from its campus than its previous ones.

Boatright said most of this sea-

son's additional travel days weren't due to the conference move. Some of Wichita State's increased travel time this year was from the nine days it spent flying to and playing in the Maui Invitational, including a day off for players. Boatright noted that WSU turned down the chance to play another game in Maui.

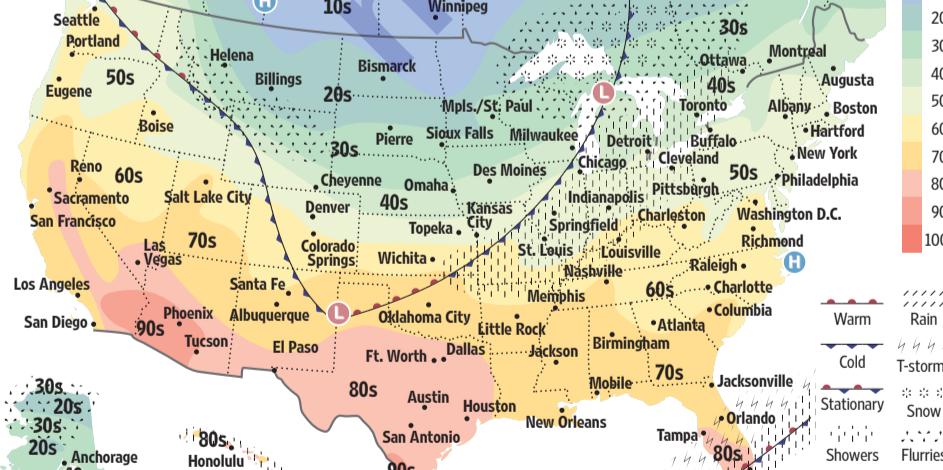
The Journal's analysis counted any time spent traveling as a travel day. Several itineraries, for instance, showed teams returning to campus from road trips in early-morning hours. The University of Houston team got back from a November tournament in Lynchburg, Va., at 2:45 a.m. on a Monday morning—and that was a charter flight.

In an NCAA survey of Division I athletes in 2015, men's basketball players said they spent an average of 1.7 days a week away from campus and missed 2.2 classes. Among college students generally, research has shown a strong correlation between class attendance and grades.

Emmert says the NCAA is striving to address rising demands on players' time. He noted that among other initiatives, the nation's five most prominent conferences voted to give men's basketball players three days off during winter break, a rule that takes effect next season.

Around the same time, NCAA members voted to start the season three days earlier.

Weather



U.S. Forecasts

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

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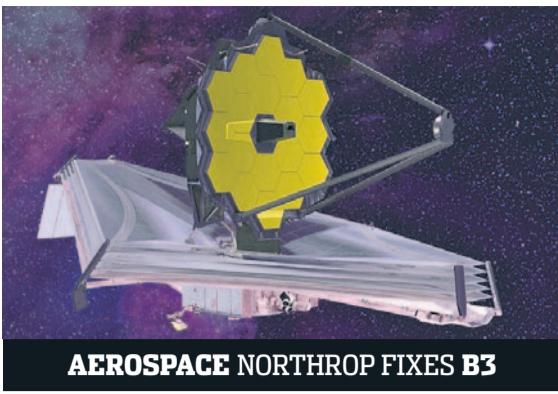
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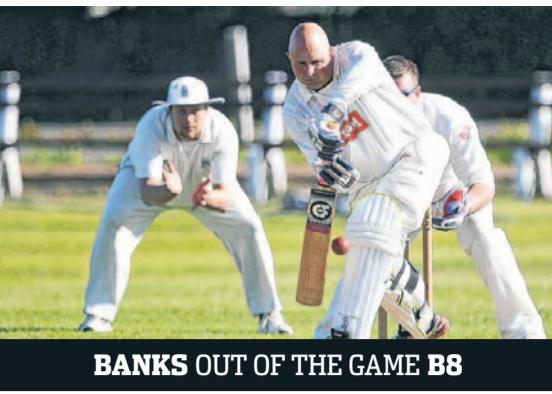
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AEROSPACE NORTHROP FIXES B3

BUSINESS & FINANCE



BANKS OUT OF THE GAME B8

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Saturday/Sunday, March 31 - April 1, 2018 | B1

DJIA Closed (24103.11)

NASDAQ Closed (7063.44)

STOXX 600 Closed (370.87) 10-YR. TREAS. Closed (yield 2.741%)

OIL Closed (\$64.94) GOLD Closed (\$1,322.80) EURO \$1.2324

YEN 106.24

Tesla: Autopilot Was On in Fatal Crash

NTSB is examining incident amid safety questions about new driving technologies

By TIM HIGGINS

Tesla Inc. late Friday acknowledged its semiautonomous Autopilot system was engaged by the driver in the seconds before a fatal crash, raising more questions about the safety of self-driving technology on public roads.

Federal investigators this week began examining the March 23 crash of a Model X sport-utility vehicle that was traveling south on Highway 101, near Mountain View, Calif., before it struck a barrier, then

was hit by two other vehicles and caught fire. The driver of the Model X was killed.

Tesla said its vehicle logs show the driver's hands weren't detected on the wheel for six seconds before the collision, and he took no action despite having five seconds and about 500 feet of unobstructed view of a concrete highway divider.

On Tuesday, the National Transportation Safety Board dispatched investigators to the scene, the second Tesla crash to attract the agency's attention this year. The NTSB, better known for its investigations into airplane crashes, has been increasingly scrutinizing the emergence of automated-driving technologies.

A 2016 fatal crash involving Tesla's Autopilot, first raised

questions about the system's abilities. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concluded Tesla's technology didn't contain a safety defect while the NTSB decided that the company shared blame in the crash by failing to include enough safeguards. In that crash, a Tesla Model S struck a tractor trailer crossing a road and the company said the system didn't see the white trailer against the bright sky.

The NTSB noted that Autopilot allowed a driver to ignore the company's warnings and go long periods without his hands on the wheel. Officials also found Autopilot could be used on roads for which it wasn't designed, and that a hands-on-the-wheel detection system was a poor substitute for measuring

driver alertness.

The most recent Tesla crash occurred five days after an Uber Technologies Inc. self-driving test car struck and killed a pedestrian walking her

The driver's hands weren't detected on the wheel for six seconds before the crash

bicycle late at night in Tempe, Ariz. Uber suspended testing of its vehicles, and federal transportation agencies are investigating what happened.

The Uber crash stirred lawmakers to call for further regu-

lation of driverless technologies, and prompted Toyota Motor Corp. and Nvidia Corp. to temporarily halt their own testing of self-driving vehicles out of caution.

The incidents threaten to damage the public's perception of automation in vehicles as car makers and technology giants are spending billions of dollars in their pursuit to have robots controlling the wheel.

At the same time, many auto makers, including Tesla, are incorporating semiautonomous systems in their vehicles that allow drivers to take their hands off the wheel for periods of time.

Tesla has said Autopilot, which can handle certain driving tasks, isn't a self-driving system and outlines to owners

that the technology is designed to assist the driver who must remain in control at all times. But drivers have been known to grow overly confident in the system's abilities.

The company has said it places a priority on safety and contends Autopilot enhances it. In its statement on Friday, Tesla said there is one fatality for every 320 million miles in vehicles equipped with Autopilot hardware in the U.S., compared with one automotive fatality every 86 million miles across all vehicles in the country.

The heightened scrutiny of Tesla's technology comes as the company struggles to ramp up production of its latest mass-market sedan and as investors lose patience with the auto maker.

BLOOMBERG NEWS
Telecom-equipment rivals have been hashing out the standards for next-generation networks. A Huawei exhibit in Shanghai.

Global Wireless Contest Gets Technical

BY NEWLEY PURNELL AND STU WOO

CHENNAI, India—The U.S. government is trying to thwart **Huawei Technologies** Co.'s ascent in wireless technology, but the Chinese company is determined to prevail.

Far from Washington, where the government has called Huawei a national security threat, the world's largest maker of cellular-tower equipment is trying to guide the development and design of the next generation of mobile networks, dubbed 5G.

Huawei is sending large teams to industry-sponsored meetings—including one held

recently in this south India port city. Just as the home-movie industry agreed years ago on specifications for DVD players, wireless-technology companies are now meeting to establish 5G standards.

Huawei representatives are swamping such conferences with recommendations for how the new system should work, leveraging the company's large research-and-development budget and its growing workforce of skilled engineers, according to meeting attendees and outside analysts.

The U.S. and Europe, drawing on the expertise of Western firms, were the quickest to

roll out today's 3G and 4G mobile networks. Now, industry leaders say China, with Huawei's leadership, is ahead in the race for the next stage.

"5G will be made in China," said Dimitris Mavrakis, a director at ABI Research.

The next-generation network promises better reliability and speed, as well as the potential to make the most of new technologies such as self-driving cars. But the industry, at meetings like the one held in Chennai, is still crafting the technical details about how 5G will actually work.

Some companies are pushing certain standards that rely on technology they have the

right to patent. Similarly, hardware manufacturers support standards that would accommodate products they have been developing.

Huawei, which is also the world's No. 3 smartphone maker, sent 40 representatives to the Chennai meeting, behind only the 41 from South Korean smartphone giant **Samsung Electronics** Co., according to conference records. There were 30 delegates from San Diego-based chip maker **Qualcomm** Inc., while Huawei's major wireless-equipment rivals, Sweden's **Erics**son AB and Finland's **Nokia** Corp., sent 25 and 18 repre-

Please see MOBILE page B2

sentatives.

Mr. Thain, 62 years old, would be a high-profile addition to Deutsche Bank's supervisory board at a trying time for the lender. John Cryan, its CEO since 2015, and the board are being tested by three consecutive full-year losses and missed cost-cutting targets, as well as high-level tensions over strategy and performance.

The Wall Street Journal and other media reported this week that Deutsche Bank's chairman, Paul Achleitner, has reached out externally to potential candidates to replace Mr. Cryan, citing people briefed on the discussions.

The outreach raises the possibility that Mr. Cryan could leave before his contract ends in 2020.

Mr. Achleitner didn't respond to requests for comment.

Mr. Cryan didn't address

the reports directly, but a day later told employees in a memo the bank made public that he is "absolutely committed" to serving the lender and carrying out its turnaround strategy.

Other nominees to the supervisory board are Michele Togni, former executive at data and analytics firm IHS Markit Ltd. and **UBS Group** AG, and Mayree Clark, a former longtime **Morgan Stanley** wealth-management executive, according to the person familiar with the board's plans.

Mr. Thain, a former longtime **Goldman Sachs Group** Inc. executive and more recently CEO of midsize lender **CIT Group** Inc., is one of four nominees who have been invited by the German lender's supervisory board to fill seats coming open this year, the person said.

The 20-member board plans to submit the nominees to shareholders for election at the bank's annual meeting May 24.

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Mr. Achleitner didn't respond to requests for comment.

Mr. Cryan didn't address

Please see BOARD page B8

TAX REPORT | By Laura Saunders

As Filing Deadline Nears, Get a Jump on Next Year

As the mad dash to file 2017 tax returns nears the finish line, here is the most important tip: start thinking about this year's taxes.

Congress passed the biggest tax overhaul in three decades late last year, and most provisions took effect Jan. 1. Americans who don't check now to learn the changes' effects—especially on paycheck withholding and deductions—could face surprise tax bills next spring.

Here are the most important steps to take now for next year's return, in addition to several tips for 2017.

An estimated 45 million filers still haven't finished their returns as the April 17 deadline approaches.

♦ **Project taxes for 2018:** The overhaul will lower taxes for about 65% of filers and raise them for about 6% on 2018 tax returns, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. The rest will see no net change. These results don't include indirect effects, such as from corporate tax cuts or increased

Please see TAXES page B4

Notice to Readers: The Intelligent Investor column will return next week.

Please see MEMO page B2

Facebook Note Flagged 'Ugly Truth' of Growth

BY DEEPA SEETHARAMAN

For many years, **Facebook** Inc. employees were told that growth was paramount. But during the spring of 2016, there were mounting questions internally about the ill consequences of growth-at-all-costs.

That mentality was laid bare in a 2016 memo called "The Ugly" from a Facebook executive who defended to employees the social network's relentless pursuit for growth, even if it meant a user somewhere was bullied to death through Facebook or a terrorist attack was coordinated by the tools.

"The ugly truth is that we believe in connecting people so deeply that anything that allows us to connect more people more often is 'de facto' good," Andrew Bosworth's memo in 2016 titled 'The Ugly' drew attention to the risks of Facebook's direction.



Andrew Bosworth's memo in 2016 titled 'The Ugly' drew attention to the risks of Facebook's direction.

BUSINESS & FINANCE



Time Warner Chief Executive Jeff Bewkes arriving at the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., last week; also attending was AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson. Their companies' merger is valued at \$85 billion.



AARON P. BERNSTEIN/REUTERS; JOSE LUIS MAGANA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

AT&T Trial Hears From Initial Witnesses

Government elicits testimony in antitrust challenge to merger with Time Warner

By BRENT KENDALL

WASHINGTON—The first full week of witness testimony in the trial over the \$85 billion merger of AT&T Inc. and Time Warner Inc. started fairly smoothly for the antitrust case against the deal, but the government appeared to hit some bumps as the week drew to a close.

One of the Justice Department's early witnesses was Dish Network Corp. executive Warren Schlichting, who runs Dish's Sling TV, an internet-based pay-TV service that at-

tracts cord-cutting customers. His testimony was in line with one of the department's central arguments against the merger: that AT&T, which owns the rival satellite service DirecTV, could disadvantage other pay-TV distributors if it were to control Time Warner's Turner networks, which include TBS, TNT and CNN.

Mr. Schlichting testified that Turner networks are important for pay-TV lineups and that a postmerger AT&T is likely to raise Turner networks' carriage fees and impose burdensome conditions on Dish and Sling, which in turn could hurt their ability to offer popular packages to budget-conscious consumers. It could even lead to blackouts of Turner content, he said.

On Thursday, the Justice

Department's case got murkier when it called to the stand John R. Hauser, a marketing professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Hauser testified about a study he had conducted that indicated about 12% of customers would switch to a new pay-TV provider if their current one suffered a long-term blackout of the Turner networks.

The switching question is important for the Justice Department's legal theory that AT&T could use Turner to leverage over rivals.

In his cross-examination of Mr. Hauser, Time Warner lawyer Peter Barbur said the study was a hypothetical exercise that ignored evidence of how consumers responded in real-world blackouts.

Mr. Barbur also said the

professor based his survey conclusions "on two groups of 400 respondents," which he suggested wasn't nearly enough of a statistical basis for arguing against a merger of this size.

Mr. Hauser said his switching estimates were accurate and based on long-accepted methodologies and a sufficient sample size.

At the end of Mr. Hauser's testimony, U.S. District Judge Richard Leon expressed some skepticism about the data, in particular whether survey respondents were answering truthfully.

"You have no way of knowing," Judge Leon said, adding that the respondents "can just whip through" the survey instead of taking the questions as seriously as one weighing

an issue of this magnitude would like.

The week ended with testimony from Comcast Corp. executive Greg Rigdon, who negotiates with programmers on the financial terms for carrying their channels. Mr. Rigdon was a Justice Department witness but his answers indicated that the cable giant, which also owns NBCUniversal, didn't have the same level of concern about the deal as other distributors like Dish.

Mr. Rigdon said Comcast, in two recent negotiations with Turner, agreed to raise the prices it would pay for the networks. The decision to do so appeared to be based at least in part on internal studies suggesting Comcast could lose customers if it didn't reach a Turner agreement.

Those factors could boost the government's argument that the Turner networks are "must-have" content.

Mr. Rigdon, however, declined to offer details on the internal studies in open court and part of his testimony took place in a closed session.

In other parts of his open testimony, Mr. Rigdon, under questioning by a Time Warner lawyer, said he didn't think Comcast would have more difficult negotiations with Turner and Time Warner if AT&T owned them.

Judge Leon said that time is of the essence and told the parties to confer over the weekend and decide how many witnesses each side actually needs.

—Drew Fitzgerald contributed to this article.

MOBILE

Continued from the prior page
sentatives, respectively.

Representatives from Chinese companies now hold 10 of the 57 chairman and vice chairman positions on decision-making panels at 3GPP, the France-based industry group overseeing the standard-setting process, according to Jefferies Group researchers.

Even before the current 5G discussions, Huawei was ramping up its research and patenting efforts, nearly matching design contributions for 4G standards made by Ericsson, the then-undisputed leader in wireless equipment.

Huawei said Friday its research-and-development budget rose 17% last year to \$14.3 billion. That is more than the combined 2017 total for Ericsson and Nokia.

U.S. leaders have made clear they are trying to prevent a world in which most telecom electronics are made

by Huawei and its Chinese peers, fearing Beijing could spy, steal trade secrets or cast cyberattacks through them. A Huawei spokesman says the company is employee-owned and that no government has ever asked it to spy on or sabotage another country.

176

Number of firms represented at a recent standard-setting meeting

A Trump administration panel stepped in earlier this month to block an attempt by Singapore-based Broadcom Ltd. to buy Qualcomm, saying a takeover could reduce Qualcomm's research-and-development budget and the U.S. firm's influence on 5G development. In a letter, the panel cited Huawei's growing presence at meetings like the one in Chennai: "Chinese compa-

nies, including Huawei, have increased their engagement in 5G standardization working groups."

After four days huddled over laptops in the conference rooms of a luxury hotel in Chennai, attendees set "new radio" specifications—standards that will dictate how the cellular towers of the future will talk to smartphones and other devices. About 400 telecom-industry representatives from 176 companies hashed out the new rules.

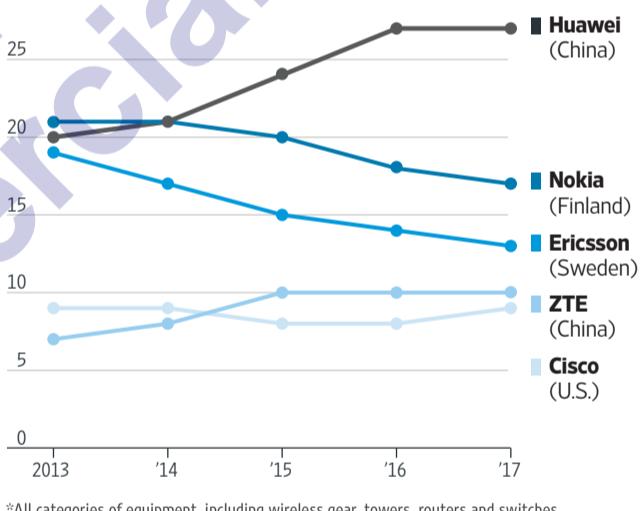
While the group reached quick consensus on the radio specs, controversy flared over a procedural issue. Huawei and Ericsson representatives faced off over how many topics the conferences should tackle in meetings subsequent to a major gathering in June in San Diego.

Ericsson representatives argued the workload at the Chennai conferences was already too much and proposed a reduced number of topics. Huawei, meanwhile, proposed tackling more—a stance some

Market Grab

Huawei has zoomed ahead of other suppliers of network equipment.

Global market share of telecom equipment*



*All categories of equipment, including wireless gear, towers, routers and switches.

Source: Dell'Oro Group

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

attendees said works to the Chinese company's advantage given the size of its delega-

tion. In the end, the delegates reached a compromise number, according to attendees.

Huawei Sales Rise Despite U.S. Curbs

By JOSH CHIN

SHENZHEN, China—Huawei Technologies Co. said strong smartphone sales recharged profit growth last year, after flattening in 2016.

The Chinese telecommunications company said Friday that its annual profit rose 28% to 47.5 billion yuan (\$7.6 billion), following a 0.4% rise in the prior year. Sales grew nearly 16%, driven largely by its consumer business.

But the gains were clouded by the company's inability to crack the U.S. market, amid warnings by U.S. national security agencies that Huawei products could give the Chinese government access to critical networks.

Huawei, which is closely held and owned by its employees, has repeatedly denied such allegations, saying its products don't have so-called backdoors that would allow such access.

"Now, for a variety of reasons, we can't do business in the U.S. We feel helpless there," said Ken Hu, who finished his six-month stint as Huawei's rotating chief executive on Friday. "These challenges in the U.S. will make us work even harder in other markets around the world."

Best Buy Co. is planning to stop selling Huawei-made phones in the U.S., The Wall Street Journal reported recently. The Federal Communications Commission is also considering a new rule that would make it harder for small and rural carriers in the U.S. to purchase gear from Chinese telecom-equipment makers.

Huawei has become the world's dominant producer of wireless equipment and is now positioned to be a heavyweight in the global rollout of 5G, the next generation of mobile internet services. The company is also the world's third-largest smartphone maker by sales, after Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc.

Huawei said its research-and-development spending rose 17% to 89.7 billion yuan, as it looks to capitalize on a rollout of 5G and other emerging technologies.

Mr. Hu said Huawei plans to release its first 5G-compatible smartphone in 2019.

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DANIEL PAUL MORRIS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

MEMO

Continued from the prior page
worth, then Facebook's vice president of ads, wrote in a note he posted on Facebook's internal forums.

Mr. Bosworth now oversees consumer-hardware efforts at Facebook.

Mr. Bosworth wrote that the emphasis on growth—connecting millions of people around the world—is justified despite the risks. "All the questionable contact importing practices. All the subtle language that helps people stay searchable by friends. All the work we do to bring more communication in. The work we will likely have to do in China some day," his message read.

The ideas from the memo, first reported by BuzzFeed and confirmed by Mr. Bosworth, provoked an internal backlash, according to former employees. "It was not well-received," one of the former employees said, because it seemed as if Mr. Bosworth wasn't thinking clearly enough about the negative consequences of connectivity when it was posted in June 2016.

In a statement Thursday on Twitter, Mr. Bosworth said that at the time he wasn't espousing the ideas he presented in the memo, rather it was designed to expose issues for discussion within Facebook.

"It was intended to be provocative," Mr. Bosworth further tweeted. "This was one of

the most unpopular things I've ever written internally and the ensuing debate helped shape our tools for the better."

Mr. Bosworth's note has surfaced amid a broader debate among Facebook employees about the company's tactics for expanding its user base, including its liberal use of notifications, the scary effectiveness of its "People You May Know" feature and its willingness to build what many employees view as a censorship tool in order to help Facebook crack the Chinese market.

The publication of Mr. Bosworth's internal note is the latest in a string of controversies about Facebook's business and policy practices over the

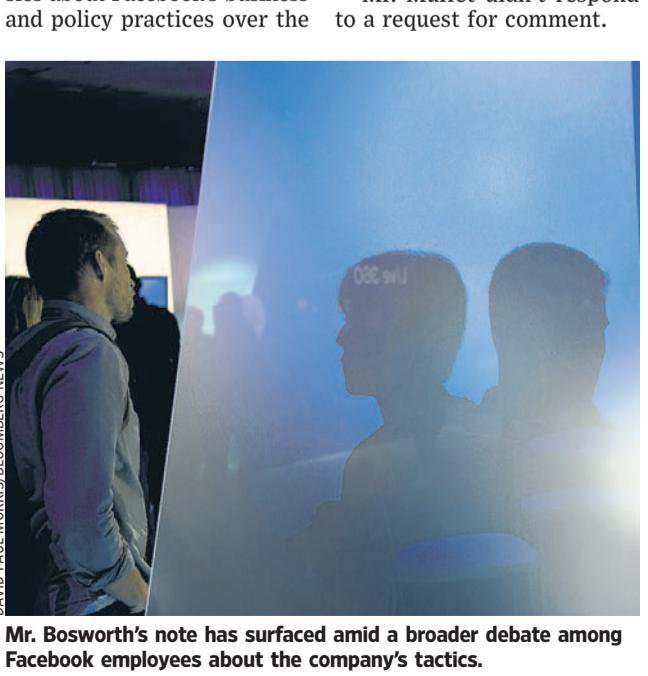
last 18 months.

The note also shows the extent to which Facebook was having internal debates about its use of power well before similar discussions occurred in the mainstream media.

In a public post on Twitter on Thursday, one former Facebook employee, Alec Muffet, said the ideas in Mr. Bosworth's note was a big factor in his departure from the company in 2016.

Mr. Muffet was among the employees who pushed back on Facebook's desire to create a tool that would allow outsiders to censor content before it was posted online, he and another former employee said.

Mr. Muffet didn't respond to a request for comment.



Mr. Bosworth's note has surfaced amid a broader debate among Facebook employees about the company's tactics.

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Northrop Addresses Lapses

By ANDY PASZTOR

Northrop Grumman Corp. has implemented major changes in satellite production as a result of its previously disclosed mistakes building NASA's troubled James Webb Space Telescope, according to people familiar with the details.

The new practices, these people said, include stepped-up quality-control checks and enhanced training in an effort to lock in tighter testing procedures and prevent employee burnout. They come after NASA this past week announced a roughly one-year schedule slip on the long-troubled space project, to around May 2020 from summer 2019.

The revisions are expected to affect practices at Northrop Grumman, a major supplier of commercial and defense space systems, significantly beyond its work for NASA, according to some industry and government officials.

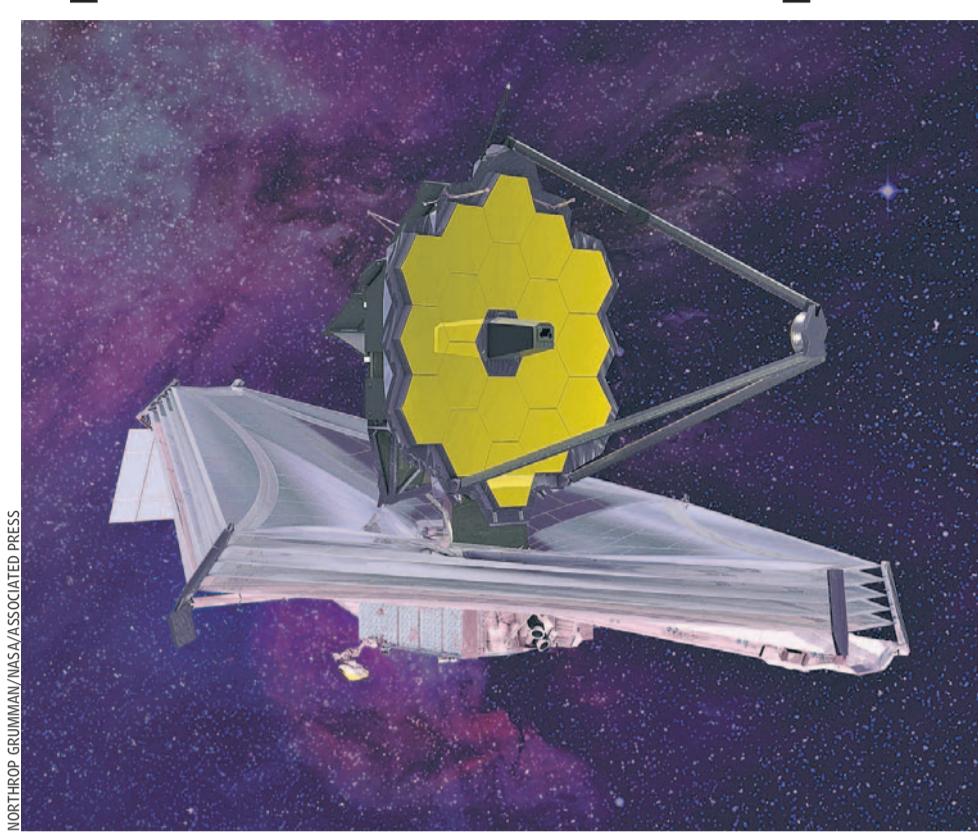
Extra personnel costs are anticipated to add at least \$200 million to the Webb program's overall development costs, which could put it over the \$8 billion cap approved by Congress, one of the knowledgeable people said.

Congress has pledged to re-evaluate the project if its budget exceeded that total. In addition, some lawmakers have already been critical of Northrop Grumman's performance.

Neither Northrop Grumman nor National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials have publicly indicated the likely financial impact of the procedural fixes and additional hardware testing.

On Thursday, a Northrop Grumman spokesman declined to comment, reiterating an earlier statement that the company "remains steadfast in its commitment to NASA and ensuring successful integration, launch and deployment."

A NASA spokesman pointed to statements by agency officials during a press brief-



A 2015 illustration of the James Webb Space Telescope, which has been further delayed.

ing Tuesday. When NASA announced the schedule adjustment—the third major delay in seven years—senior agency officials were uncharacteristically critical of what they called “avoidable errors” by Northrop. Moreover, the announcement was unusual because details of the final timetable changes and agency positions weren’t communicated to senior Northrop Grumman executives in advance, according to the knowledgeable people.

During the briefing, acting NASA chief Robert Lightfoot said “corrective actions taken by the project” are intended to “give us better insight into our management of future large space systems.”

Since then, more specifics have emerged about the root causes of certain production lapses. Northrop Grumman workers installed 16 valves on the satellite’s thrusters without relying on detailed in-

structions and in the process used the wrong cleaning compound, damaging the parts, one of the knowledgeable people said.

Resulting leaks required a subcontractor to refurbish the valves, followed by another time-consuming process to replace and retest them. It took about three months to complete the process, this person said.

When workers deployed a sun shield designed to protect the spacecraft’s intricate gold, hexagonal-shaped mirrors in space, the operation took twice as long as expected and revealed shortcomings despite earlier successful tests with a one-third-scale replica.

Cables that pull the shield into shape “develop too much slack during the deployment, creating a snagging hazard,” Thomas Zurbuchen, NASA’s associate administrator for unmanned missions, told reporters Tuesday.

Several tears also appeared in the shield, according to one of the knowledgeable people, because of unexpected stresses stemming from workers’ incorrectly attaching hooks and cables to the wrong holes.

Even before such blunders, NASA leaders had demanded a high-level management shakeup at Northrop Grumman in response to schedule slips for the project, this person added. Privately, company managers countered that years of delays were common for other large, complex government satellite projects.

Northrop Grumman argued some of its delays reflected joint NASA-contractor decisions made years earlier to hold off developing and testing certain elements of the space observatory to give the agency extra dollars and time to complete work on its portion, one of the people familiar with the process said.

Chinese Firm Acts On Solar Tariffs

By AUSTEN HUFFORD

NextEra Energy Inc. is expanding a deal to buy millions of solar panels from a Chinese manufacturer setting up shop in Florida, a move that comes after the U.S. announced tariffs on imported solar products.

NextEra Energy, Florida Power & Light parent, said Friday that it would source 2.75 gigawatts of solar modules, roughly seven million panels, over four years from Shanghai-based **JinkoSolar Holding** Co., which is building its first U.S. factory in Florida to meet the demand.

In January, the Trump administration announced tariffs—30% in the first year, declining to 15% by the fourth—on foreign-made solar panels and cells. The decision came after Suniva Inc., which is majority-owned by a company based in Hong Kong, and SolarWorld Americas Inc., which has a German parent, petitioned the U.S. government for trade protection.

While that measure could pressure panel prices in general, technological improvements and production cost sav-

ings could cushion the effect. Also, utilities in some locales are mandated to procure renewable energy, which would sustain demand.

Domestic solar installers, which employ more people than the relatively small U.S. solar manufacturing sector, have largely opposed the tariffs for fear higher panel prices would cut into installations.

In January, JinkoSolar said it had reached a deal to supply a then-unnamed U.S. company with 1.75 gigawatts of solar modules over about three years. On Friday, it confirmed it plans to open its first U.S. factory in Jacksonville, Fla., which is expected to create 200 direct jobs. NextEra directed questions to JinkoSolar, which didn’t respond to a request to comment.

To prepare for the tariffs, NextEra and other solar-project developers have also been stockpiling panels. NextEra Chief Executive James Robo told analysts in January that the Florida-based company had purchased all of the panels it needs in 2018 and 2019, as well as the panels for “a significant portion of our 2020 build.”



In January, the Trump administration announced import tariffs on solar panels and cells following petitions from U.S.-based firms.

SpaceX Puts Satellites Into Orbit



GOLDEN LIFTOFF: A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched 10 next-generation satellites for Iridium Communications after taking off from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on Friday.

Foxconn Profit Buoyed by iPhone

By YOKO KUBOTA

BEIJING—Foxconn Technology Group posted a better-than-expected 4% rise in fourth-quarter profit, bouncing back after major customer **Apple** Inc. overcame production troubles for the iPhone X.

Taiwan-based Foxconn, which assembles Apple’s iPhones in China, said Friday that profit for 2017’s final period climbed to 71.7 billion New Taiwan dollars (US\$2.5 billion), from NT\$68.8 billion a year earlier.

Analysts polled by S&P Capital IQ were expecting on average a fourth-quarter profit of NT\$64.4 billion.

Revenue rose 23% to NT\$1.7 trillion, after flat results for the preceding quarter.

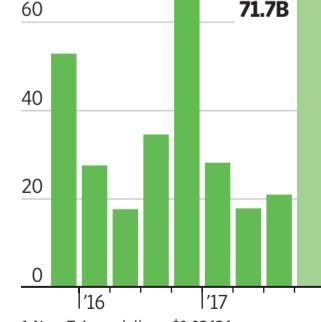
Foxconn, known formally as **Hon Hai Precision Industry** Co., is the world’s largest contract electronics maker.

In the third quarter, the company’s profit fell 39% from a year earlier, likely reflecting production troubles for the iPhone X that delayed initial sales of the device until No-

Back on Course

Foxconn’s quarterly profit

80 billion New Taiwan dollars



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

boosted the average selling price for its iPhones by nearly 15%.

For all of 2017, Foxconn posted a profit of NT\$138.7 billion, down 7% from the prior year, and revenue of NT\$4.7 trillion, up 8%.

Foxconn Chairman Terry Gou has been working to expand the company’s business beyond contract manufacturing and into consumer brands of its own.

A Foxconn unit recently agreed to buy smartphone and electronics accessories maker Belkin International Inc. for \$866 million.

Another subsidiary, Foxconn Industrial Internet Co., which makes smartphones and wireless-equipment components, recently won regulatory approval in China for an initial public offering to raise at least 27.3 billion yuan (US\$4.3 billion) on the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Apple, which is Foxconn’s largest customer, booked record revenue for its latest quarter, and said in February that the iPhone X, with a starting price of \$1,000,

the world's most comfortable slipper

featuring a 100% wool lining, collapsible neoprene heels and detachable outdoor soles, this is a slipper you’ll never want to take off.

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WEEKEND INVESTOR

Latham Looks to Regain Its Mojo

After losing chairman and top revenue rank, law firm faces pressure to find long-term boss

BY SARA RANDAZZO

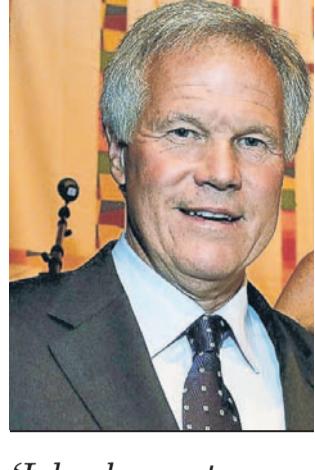
First, Latham & Watkins LLP lost its chairman. Then, it lost its rank as the world's highest-grossing law firm. The two recent events are putting pressure on the firm—whose clients include American Airlines Group Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co.—to name a new leader and move past the distractions.

Latham said vice chairs Ora Fisher in Silicon Valley and Richard Trobman in London will take immediate responsibility as co-leaders after chairman William "Bill" Voge resigned abruptly in late March. That exit followed revelations of his engaging in communications of a sexual nature with a woman unaffiliated with the law firm, Latham said in a statement. Some employees have been told that a permanent successor will be in place by summer, according to a per-

son familiar with the matter. Legal recruiters, consultants and former partners say the shake-up, while surprising, is unlikely to have a lasting effect on Latham's business. The 2,600-lawyer firm's size and corporate structure make leadership changes less disruptive than at first-generation law firms that rely on a handful of founders to maintain client relationships.

"I think whatever focus they might lose, nobody outside would notice a change in their performance," said Michael Rynowecer, the president of BTI Consulting Group Inc., which provides market research to law firms. "They have been very disciplined on how to go about growing the firm and grooming leaders."

Mr. Voge, a 61-year-old project-finance lawyer, took over leadership of the firm in January 2015 from Robert "Bob" Dell, a legendary chairman who had held the job for two decades. Mr. Voge was viewed during the last leadership election as a bridge candidate between Mr. Dell and the next generation of lawyers in their 40s, and said at the time he planned to serve



MARK VON HOLDEN/INVISION/ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I deeply regret my lapse of judgment and I am sorry,' Mr. Voge said.

a single five-year term.

His resignation hastens that transition by two years.

Mr. Voge's successor will inherit a firm that recently ceded its top spot to Kirkland & Ellis LLP after three years of being the world's highest-grossing law firm, according to legal

trade publication American Lawyer. Kirkland & Ellis brought in \$3.165 billion in global revenue in 2017, compared with Latham's \$3.064 billion, the publication reported.

Mr. Voge stepped down after disclosing to the firm that he had inappropriate contact with a woman whom he had never met and who had no ties to the firm, Latham said in a statement. The firm didn't disclose the contents of the communications or the woman's identity.

In his own statement, Mr. Voge said that "I made a personal mistake for which I bear considerable fault and humiliation. I deeply regret my lapse of judgment and I am sorry for the distress and embarrassment I have caused my family, friends, and colleagues."

Mr. Voge was introduced to the woman through his work as a board member for the New Canaan Society, a Christian men's group, according to a person familiar with the matter. The New Canaan Society describes itself as a place for men to find friendship and faith and support each other through regular gatherings.

In the course of facilitating

a reconciliation between the woman and the founder of the New Canaan Society, Mr. Voge sent text messages of a sexual nature to the woman over a four-day period, the person said. The founder of the society didn't respond to requests for comment.

After Mr. Voge reported his conduct to Latham, the woman continued to contact Mr. Voge and others about the encounter, according to the person.

Latham said in its statement that Mr. Voge's subsequent conduct after his disclosure to the firm "while not unlawful, the executive committee concluded was not befitting the leader of the firm." The conduct, according to a person familiar with the matter, involved heated communications with the woman's husband.

If Latham's past leadership transition is any guide, the process to replace Mr. Voge will be a deliberative one. Latham takes a democratic approach to leadership roles, holding elections for the executive committee and other key positions. By contrast, many of its peers typically have leaders handpick their close advisers.



CHRISTOPHER NILS/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Sales Worry: Charging Up, but No Snacks

BY ALISON SIDER

It isn't only the auto industry that could be upended by the rise of electric vehicles. It could threaten the gasoline station as we know it, too.

EVs would mean big changes for refiners that process oil into fuel and retailers who sell it at the pump. But companies that make cigarettes, energy drinks and other convenience-store items could also be forced to find new sales outlets.

Owning gas stations has long been about more than selling fuel: They make almost as much money selling Slim Jims and Red Bull as they do gasoline. Gas stations account for 75% of cigarette sales and 60% of sales of energy drinks, according to a recent Morgan Stanley report.

"A major distribution channel for these products could be disrupted," the analysts said.

75%

Share of cigarette sales accounted for by gas stations

Companies such as Altria Group Inc., which owns Philip Morris USA, Monster Beverage Corp. and PepsiCo Inc. could all be affected to some degree, the analysts said.

To be sure, there is a wide range of opinions about how popular electric vehicles will become. Morgan Stanley analysts believe adoption is going to climb; their base case is that EVs will account for 70% of U.S. light-vehicle sales and 48% of U.S. miles driven by 2040.

It isn't clear whether the solution for gas stations is as simple as adding charging capability. The vast majority of EV owners—some 80%—charge from the comfort of their homes, often at night. It is a slow process that takes several hours but is cheaper than charging up at a public station, and a single charge can often get a typical driver through the day.

That could change if more public stations for rapid charging are built and if costs come down. Restaurants could be "ideally positioned" to take advantage of 10- to 30-minute charging times by adding stations, the analysts say.

But it isn't all bad news for convenience stores and the products they sell. Even today, only about half of in-store sales at gas stations come from customers stopping for gas.

While suburban and neighborhood gas stations could struggle to coax EV drivers from home chargers, drivers might need to charge (and buy snacks) at stations along interstates and highways. Stations in urban areas could still get foot traffic and serve cab and Uber drivers.

And the analysts said most smokers will probably find new places to buy cigarettes.

"Given the addictive nature of cigarettes and prior experience, we would not expect a meaningful impact on overall tobacco-industry volumes," Morgan Stanley analysts said.

Short-Term Lending Spigot Is Poised to Open

BY LALITA CLOZEL

WASHINGTON—Consumers could find it easier to get small loans for emergency car repairs and other unplanned expenses under Trump administration plans to prod more banks to make short-term loans.

"We have a big market, we have a market that is unfulfilled," said Comptroller of the Currency Joseph Otting in an interview. "When you don't have an alternative in that space, what happens is people have a tendency to fall to the lowest common denominator," such as check-cashers, pawnshops and liquor stores, he said.

The move signals a shift from the Obama administration, which earlier this decade pressured banks to scrap short-term lending programs. Those regulators viewed small loans by banks with suspicion because of concern about high interest rates and perceived repayment risks.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which oversees national banks, will clarify its position on installment loans that can help consumers with immediate cash needs such as buying "a piece of equipment [or] a family emergency," Mr. Otting said.

The announcement, expected within the next two months, will focus on 45-to-90-day loans, rather than payday loans, which typically are repaid in a lump sum in a few weeks or by the borrower's next paycheck.

Banks say that small-dollar consumer loans are difficult to make on a large scale, because



Regulators plan to make it easier for banks to offer short-term loans for unplanned expenses like emergency car repairs.

the underwriting process is too costly given the small profit they make on each loan.

"You have a very small opportunity to cover your costs," said Wayne Abernathy, executive vice president of financial-institutions policy and regulatory affairs at the American Bankers Association trade group.

Easing underwriting expectations—for instance, allowing banks to rely more on a borrower's financial history, rather than a full credit check, to evaluate risk—could en-

courage banks to make more of these loans, Mr. Abernathy said. "We know these people, because we have ongoing relationships," he said.

Before the Obama administration, some banks offered a different type of short-term loan called deposit-advance products. Like payday loans, these typically were deducted automatically from a borrower's next paycheck, but they tended to be more predictable and less costly than payday loans, though both could carry annual interest

rates in the triple digits.

In 2013, banking regulators cracked down on deposit-advance loans made by a handful of large and regional banks that virtually eradicated the products.

But under President Donald Trump, financial regulators have sharply reversed course on short-term lending.

Consumer groups worry the regulators' new attitude could allow predatory actors to reach more consumers. The groups typically advise an annual percentage rate of 36% or

less for consumer loans.

Lauren Saunders, associate director at the National Consumer Law Center, said banks should be able to afford to make the loans at lower rates, gaining goodwill with customers in the process.

"Are they going to make gobs of money out of it? No, not unless they're charging high rates," Ms. Saunders said.

But "banks can make small-dollar loans with fewer overhead costs than other companies that don't know their customer."

TAXES

Continued from page B1
federal borrowing.

A host of online calculators can estimate how you will fare, including one from The Wall Street Journal. If your income won't vary too much, plug in the information from your 2017 return. Many tax preparers are also providing clients with projections.

♦ Check 2018 withholding and estimated payments: To put tax cuts into workers' pockets faster, U.S. officials have revised the tables that employers use to withhold taxes from paychecks. Millions of workers have seen a bump up in pay.

But these broad-based changes are imprecise. They raise take-home pay too much in some cases, especially if the filer had prior large deductions for state and local taxes. If withholding isn't adjusted, some people will owe large balances due next spring even if they get an overall tax cut.

To address this issue, the Internal Revenue Service has posted a new withholding calculator. To use it, enter information from your most recent paycheck and tax return. Then adjust take-home pay if necessary.

For those making quarterly payments of estimated taxes, it is also important to see where you stand. See the IRS's new Form 1040-ES for 2018.

♦ Rethink charitable deductions: The overhaul made landmark revisions to exemptions, deductions and credits.

In particular, the number of filers who benefit from deducting charitable donations on Schedule A will drop from about 36 million for 2017 to about 16 million for 2018, according to the Tax Policy Center.

Donors who want a tax break for their donations should determine the new law's effect on them. Those who won't be filing Schedule A every year may want to bunch two or more years of gifts into one to surmount the higher hurdle to a write-off.

♦ Tax-cutting moves for 2017: There still are a few ways to cut last year's taxes. Many savers can open or fund individual retirement accounts by April 17 and receive a 2017 tax deduction for contributions up to \$5,500 (\$6,500 for those 50 years and older). For more details on contribution limits, see IRS Publication 590-A.

Taxpayers can also deduct allowable contributions to

Health Savings Accounts made by April 17, but only if the account was set up by the end of 2017.

♦ If you need extra time to file: Filing Form 4868 by April 17 extends the filing deadline until Oct. 15. It can be e-filed either through a tax-prep service or the IRS's website, or filed on paper.

But remember: An extension to file isn't an extension to pay. To avoid late-pay-

ment penalties, filers must pay 90% of their total tax bill by April 17. Underpayments incur an interest charge, which rises to 5% annually as of April 1.

♦ If you can't pay: Don't ignore this issue. Nonfilers owe interest plus a host of penalties that mount rapidly. The statute of limitations usually doesn't begin until a return is filed.

The IRS advises taxpayers with a shortfall to file on time and pay as much as possible. Also consider filing IRS Form 9465 to request a payment plan. According to an IRS spokesman, rapid approval is highly likely if the amount owed is less than \$50,000 and can be paid within six years. The request can be filed online.

Penalties will still be due, but they will be far smaller than those for nonfilers.

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Changes to withholding taxes may be imprecise, so checking with the IRS calculator is advised.

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MARKETS DIGEST

Dow Jones Industrial Average

24103.11 ▲ 569.91, or 2.42% last week
High, low, open and close for each of the past 52 weeks

Trailing P/E ratio 25.46 21.15
P/E estimate * 16.24 17.72
Dividend yield 2.22 2.35
All-time high 26616.71, 01/26/18



Current divisor 014523396877348
Week's high
DOWN UP
Monday's open Friday's close
Friday's close Monday's open
Week's low
65-day moving average
200-day moving average

Bars measure the point change from Monday's open

MA M J J A S O N D J F M 17500

NYSE weekly volume, in billions of shares Primary market Composite



*Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Birinyi Associates Inc.

S&P 500 Index

2640.87 ▲ 52.61, or 2.03% last week
High, low, open and close for each of the past 52 weeks

Trailing P/E ratio 24.51 24.52
P/E estimate * 16.85 18.27
Dividend yield 1.95 1.97
All-time high 2872.87, 01/26/18



65-day moving average
200-day moving average

MA M J J A S O N D J F M 2100

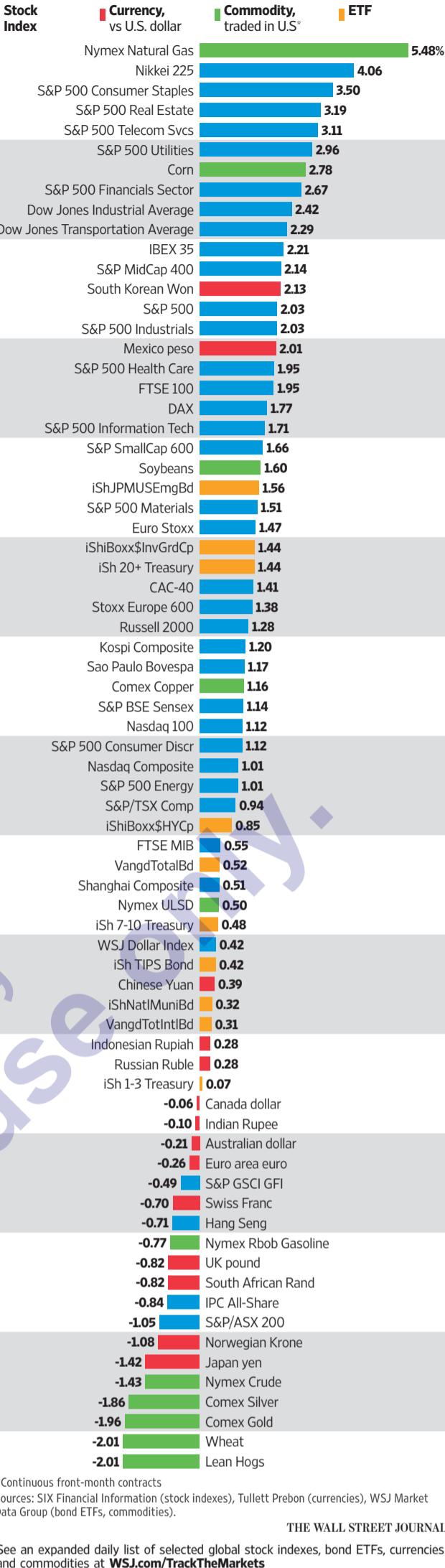
Notice to Readers

U.S. financial markets were closed Good Friday, March 30.

They resume Monday, April 2.

Track the Markets: Winners and Losers

A look at how selected global stock indexes, bond ETFs, currencies and commodities performed around the world for the week.



*Continuous front-month contracts
Sources: SIX Financial Information (stock indexes), Tullett Prebon (currencies), WSJ Market Data Group (bond ETFs, commodities).

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See an expanded daily list of selected global stock indexes, bond ETFs, currencies and commodities at WSJ.com/TrackTheMarkets

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

Dow Jones	High	Low	Latest Week Close	Net chg	% chg	Low	Close (●)	High	% chg	YTD	3-yr. ann.
	24464.22	23708.73	24103.11	569.91	▲ 2.42	20404.49	●	26616.71	16.3	-2.5	10.8
Industrial Average	10480.51	10109.47	10396.56	233.24	▲ 2.29	8783.74	●	11373.38	13.6	-2.0	6.1
Transportation Avg	696.80	674.55	692.63	18.95	▲ 2.81	647.90	●	774.47	-0.4	-4.2	6.1
Utility Average	27717.94	26896.69	27383.00	509.64	▲ 1.90	24125.20	●	29630.47	11.6	-1.0	8.2
Total Stock Market	718.60	698.99	711.59	12.04	▲ 1.72	610.89	●	757.37	13.3	0.1	8.1
Barron's 400											

Nasdaq Stock Market

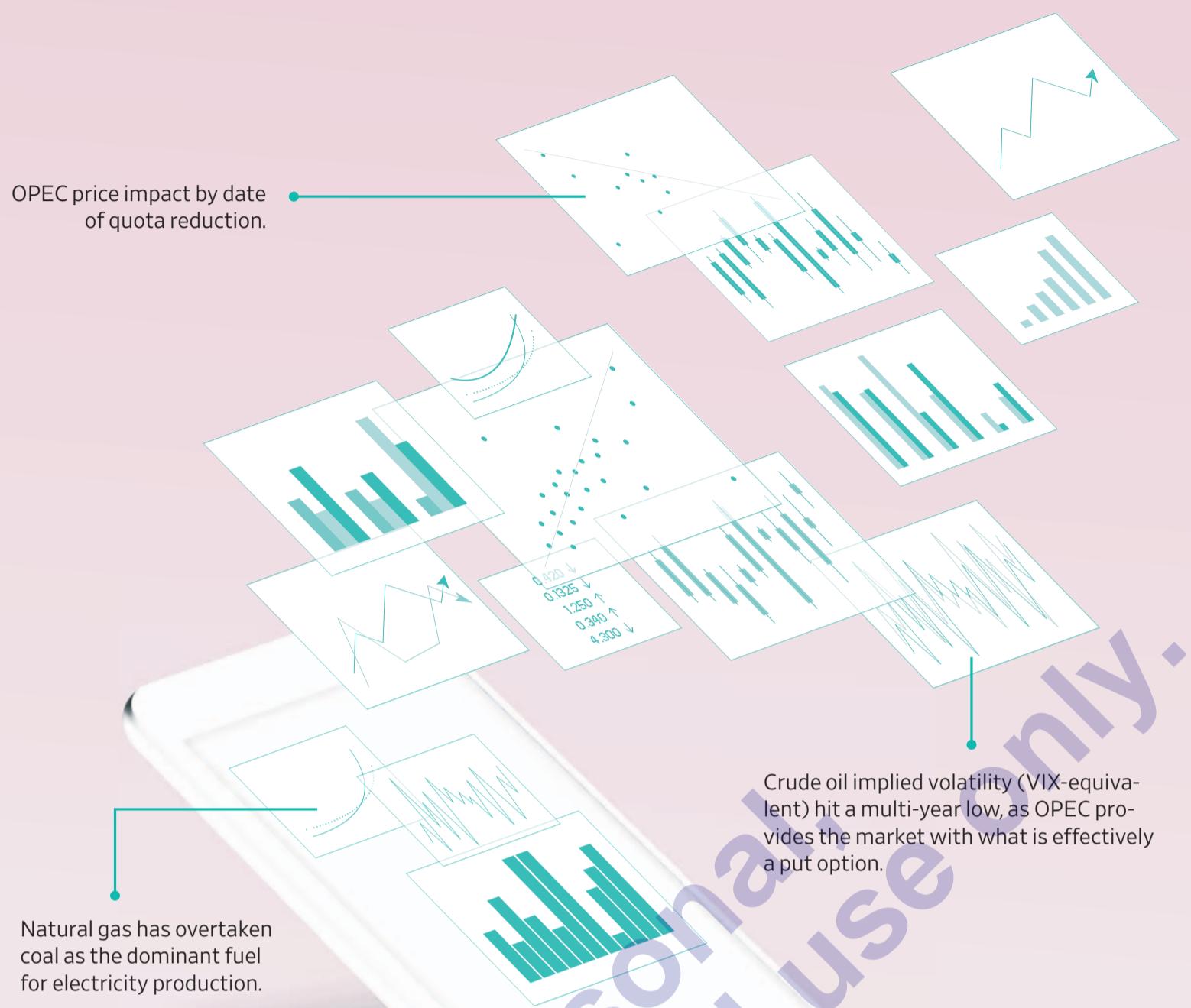
Nasdaq Composite	7255.54	6901.07	7063.44	70.78	▲ 1.01	5805.15	●	7588.32	19.4	2.3	13.0
Nasdaq 100	6793.50	6410.04	6581.13	73.04	▲ 1.12	5353.59	●	7131.12	21.0	2.9	14.9

S&P

S&P 500 Index	2674.78	2593.06	2640.87	52.61	▲ 2.03	2328.95	●	2872.87	11.5	-1.2	8.6
MidCap 400	1888.61	1844.00	1878.77	39.30	▲ 2.14	1681.04	●	1995.23	9.3	-1.1	7.6
SmallCap 600	946.34	924.90	938.46	15.34	▲ 1.66	815.62	●	979.57	11.4	0.2	9.5

Other Indexes

Russell 2000	1543.81	1505.64	1529.43	19.34	▲ 1.28	1345.24	●</
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The original
Siamese Twins:
entrepreneurs,
family men,
Confederates



C3

REVIEW



Some enchanted
collaboration:
A book explores
Rodgers &
Hammerstein

C5

BOOKS | CULTURE | SCIENCE | COMMERCE

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ART | IDEAS

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BRIDGEMAN IMAGES

The Easter Effect

The first Christians were baffled by what they called 'the Resurrection.' Their struggle to understand it brought about a revolution in their way of life—and astonishing worldly success for their faith.

BY GEORGE WEIGEL

In the year 312, just before his victory at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge won him the undisputed leadership of the Roman Empire, Constantine the Great had a heavenly vision of Christian symbols. That augury led him, a year later, to end all legal sanctions on the public profession of Christianity.

Or so a pious tradition has it.

But there's a more mundane explanation for Constantine's decision: He was a politician who had shrewdly decided to join the winning side. By the early 4th century,

Christians likely counted for between a quarter and a half of the population of the Roman Empire, and their exponential growth seemed likely to continue.

How did this happen? How did a ragtag band of nobodies from the far edges of the Mediterranean world become such a dominant force in just two and a half centuries? The historical sociology of this extraordinary phenomenon has been explored by Rodney Stark of Baylor University, who argues that Christianity modeled a nobler way of life than what was on offer elsewhere in the rather brutal society of the day. In Christianity, women were respected as they weren't in classical culture and played a critical role in bringing men to the faith and attracting converts. In an age of plagues, the

nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

Two disciples walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem on Easter afternoon haven't a clue as to who's talking with them along their way, interpreting the scriptures and explaining Jesus' suffering as part of his messianic mission. They don't even recognize who it is that sits down to supper with them until he breaks bread and asks a blessing: "...and their eyes were opened and they recognized

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Mr. Weigel is distinguished senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, where he holds the William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies.

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ESSAY

Found: a long-sought link to the speech King delivered the night before his assassination.

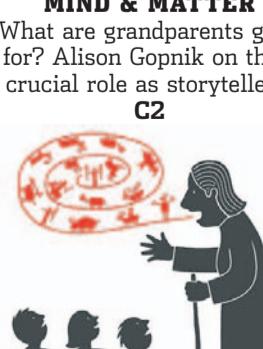
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ESSAY

Why Keynes bought a Cézanne: the great economist's scheme to return to the Bloomsbury fold.

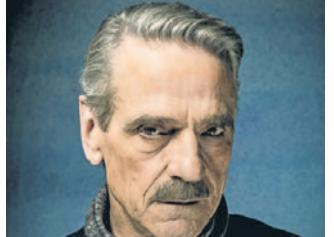
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REVIEW

MIND & MATTER:
ALISON GOPNIKGrandparents:
The Storytellers
Who Bind Us

GRANDMOM, I love Mommy most, of course, but you do tell the best stories—especially Odysseus and the Cyclops.” This authentic, if somewhat mixed, review from my grandson may capture a profound fact about human nature. A new study by Michael Gurven and colleagues suggests that grandparents really may be designed to pass on the great stories to their grandchildren.

One of the great puzzles of human evolution is why we have such a distinctive “life history.” We have much longer childhoods than any other primate, and we also live much longer, well past the age when we can fully pull our weight. While people in earlier generations had a shorter life expectancy overall, partly because many died in childhood, some humans have always lived into their 60s and 70s. Researchers find it especially puzzling that female humans have always lived well past menopause. Our closest primate relatives die in their 50s.

Perhaps, some anthropologists speculate, grandparents evolved to provide another source of food and care for all those helpless children. I’ve written in these pages about what the anthropologist Kristen Hawkes of the University of Utah has called “the grandmother hypothesis.” Prof. Hawkes found that in forager cultures, also known as hunter-gatherer societies, the food that grandmothers produce makes all the difference to their grandchildren’s survival.

In contrast, Dr. Gurven and his colleagues focus more on how human beings pass on *information* from one generation to another. Before there was writing, human storytelling was one of the most important kinds of cultural transmission. Could grandparents have adapted to help that process along?

Dr. Gurven’s team, writing earlier this year in the journal *Evolution and Human Behavior*, studied the Tsimane in Amazonia, a community in the Amazon River basin who live as our ancestors once did. The Tsimane, more than 10,000 strong, gather and garden, hunt and fish, without much involvement in the market economy. And they have a rich

tradition of stories and songs. They have myths about Dojity and Micha, creators of the Earth, with the timeless themes of murder, adultery and revenge. They also sing melancholy songs about rejected love (the blues may be a universal part of human nature).

During studies of the Tsimane spread over a number of years, Dr. Gurven and his colleagues conducted interviews to find out who told the most stories and sang the most songs, who was considered the best in each category and who the audience was for these performances. The grandparents, people from age 60 to 80, most frequently came out on top. While only 5% of Tsimane aged 15 to 29 told stories, 44% of those aged 60 to 80 did. And the elders’ most devoted audiences were their much younger kin. When the researchers asked where the Tsimane had heard stories, 84% of them came from older relatives other than parents, particularly grandparents.

This preference for grandparents may be tied to the anthropological concept of “alternate generations.” Parents may be more likely to pass on the practical skills of using a machete or avoiding a jaguar, while their own parents pass on the big picture of how a community understands the world and itself. Other studies have found that relations between grandparents and grandchildren tend to be more egalitarian than the “I told you not to do that” relationship between so many parents and children.

Grandparents may play a less significant cultural role in a complex, mobile modern society. Modern pop stars and TV showrunners are more likely to be millennial than menopausal. But when they get the chance, grandmas and grandpas still do what they’ve done across the ages—turning the attention of children to the very important business of telling stories and singing songs.

Continued from the prior page

him.” They high-tail it back to Jerusalem to tell the other friends of Jesus, who report that Peter has had a similarly strange experience, but when “Jesus himself stood among them...they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a ghost.”

Some time later, Peter, John and others in Jesus’ core group are fishing on the Sea of Galilee. “Jesus stood on the beach,” we are told, “yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.” At the very end of these post-Easter accounts, those whom we might expect to have been the first to grasp what was afoot are still skeptical. When that core group of Jesus’ followers goes back to Galilee, they see him, “but some doubted.”

This remarkable and deliberate recording of the first Christians’ incomprehension of what they insisted was the irreducible bottom line of their faith teaches us two things. First, it tells us that the early Christians were confident enough about what they called the Resurrection that (to borrow from Prof. Wright) they were prepared to say something like, “I know this sounds ridiculous, but it’s what happened.” And the second thing it tells us is that it took time for the first Christians to figure out what the events of Easter meant—not only for Jesus but for themselves. As they worked that out, their thinking about a lot of things changed profoundly, as Prof. Wright and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI help us to understand in their biblical commentaries.

The way they thought about time and history changed. During Jesus’ public ministry, many of his followers shared in the Jewish messianic expectations of the time: God would soon work something grand for his people in Israel, liberating them from their oppressors and bringing about a new age in which (as Isaiah had prophesied) the nations would stream to the mountain of the Lord and history would end. The early Christians came to understand that the cataclysmic, world-redeeming act that God had promised had taken place at Easter. God’s Kingdom had come not at the end of time but within time—and that had changed the texture of both time and history. History continued, but those shaped by the Easter Effect became the people who knew how history was going to turn out. Because of that, they could live differently. The Easter Effect impelled them to bring a new standard of equality into the world and to embrace death as martyrs if necessary—because they knew, now, that death did not have the final word in the human story.

The way they thought about resurrection changed. Pious Jews taught by the reforming Pharisees of Jesus’ time believed in the resurrection of the dead. Easter taught the first Christians, who were all pious Jews, that this resurrection was not the resuscitation of a corpse, nor did it involve the decomposition of a corpse. Jesus’ tomb was empty, but the Risen Lord appeared to his disciples in a transformed body. Those who first experienced the Easter Effect would not have put it in these terms, but as their understanding of what had happened to Jesus and to themselves grew, they grasped that (as Benedict XVI put it in “Jesus of Nazareth—Holy Week”) there had been an “evolutionary leap” in the human condition. A new way of being had been encountered in the manifestly human but utterly different life of the one they met as the Risen Lord. That insight radically changed all those who embraced it.

Which brings us to the next manifestation of the Easter Effect among the first Christians: *The way they thought about their responsibilities changed.* What had happened to Jesus, they slowly began to grasp, was not just about their former teacher and friend; it was about all of them. His destiny was

Christian mission is inconceivable without Easter.

their destiny. So not only could they face opposition, scorn and even death with confidence; they could offer to others the truth and the fellowship they had been given. Indeed, they had to do so, to be faithful to what they had experienced. Christian mission is inconceivable without Easter. And that mission would eventually lead these sons and daughters of Abraham to the conviction that the promise that God had made to the People

of Israel had been extended to those who were not sons and daughters of Abraham. Because of Easter, the gentiles, too, could be embraced in a relationship—a covenant—with the one God, which was embodied in righteous living.

The way they thought about worship and its temporal rhythms changed. For the Jews who were the first members of the Jesus movement, nothing was more sacrosanct than the Sabbath, the seventh day of rest and worship. The Sabbath was enshrined in creation, for God himself had rested on the seventh day. The Sabbath’s importance as a key behavioral marker of the People of God had been reaffirmed in the Ten Commandments. Yet these first Christians, all Jews, quickly fixed Sunday as the “Lord’s Day,” because Easter had been a Sunday. Benedict XVI draws out the crucial point here:

“Only an event that marked souls indelibly could bring about such a profound realignment of the religious culture of the week. Mere theological speculations could not have achieved this... [The] celebration of the Lord’s day, which was characteristic of the Christian community from the outset, is one of the most convincing proofs that something extraordinary happened [at Easter]—the discovery of the empty tomb and the encounter with the Risen Lord.”

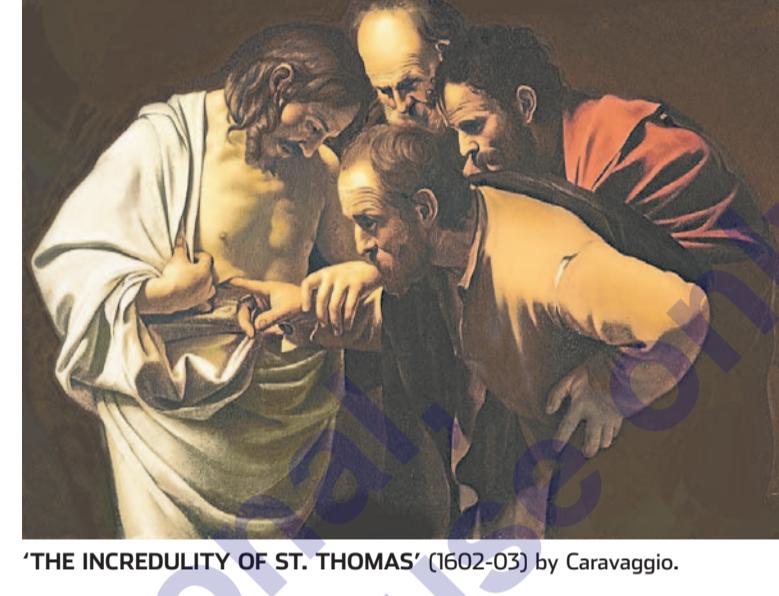
Without the Easter Effect, there is really no explaining why there was a winning side—the Christian side—for Constantine the Great to choose. That effect, as Prof. Wright puts it, begins with, and is incomprehensible without, the

first Christians’ conviction that “Jesus of Nazareth was raised bodily to a new sort of life, three days after his execution.” Recognizing that does not, of course, convince everyone. Nor does it end the mystery of Easter. The first Christians, like Christians today, cannot fully comprehend resurrected life: the life depicted in the Gospels of a transphysical body that can eat, drink and be touched but that also appears and disappears, unbothered by obstacles like doors and distance.

Nor does Easter mean that everything is always going to turn out just fine, for there is still work to be done in history. As Benedict XVI put it in his 2010 Easter message: “Easter does not work magic. Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church, after the Resurrection, always finds history filled with joy and hope, grief and anguish. And yet this history is changed...it is truly open to the future.”

Which perhaps offers one final insight into the question with which we began: How did the Jesus movement, beginning on the margins of civilization and led by people of seeming inconsequence, end up being what Constantine regarded as the winning side? However important the role of sociological factors in explaining why Christianity carried the day, there also was that curious and inexplicable joy that marked the early Christians, even as they were being marched off to execution. Was that joy simply delusion? Denial?

Perhaps it was the Easter Effect: the joy of people who had become convinced that they were witnesses to something inexplicable but nonetheless true. Something that gave a superabundance of meaning to life and that erased the fear of death. Something that had to be shared. Something with which to change the world.



‘THE INCRUDULITY OF ST. THOMAS’ (1602-03) by Caravaggio.



PAKISTANI Christian worshippers during an Easter Mass in Lahore, 2015.

FROM TOP: BRIDGEMAN IMAGES; LIGHTROCKET/GETTY IMAGES

REVIEW

BY YUNTE HUANG

ON HIS RECENT VISIT to California, President Donald Trump likened people who climb over barriers on the U.S.-Mexico border to "professional mountain climbers." The metaphor was another instance of his ugly rhetoric against immigrants, but it contains, ironically, a grain of truth.

Throughout American history, almost all immigrants, legal or illegal, have indeed had mountains to climb. Mr. Trump would only need to look back at his own family's immigration history to know the difficulties facing new arrivals. But few newcomers to the U.S. have crossed more daunting barriers than Chang and Eng Bunker, the original "Siamese Twins."

Born in 1811 on a riverboat at a fishing village in Siam (as Thailand was then called), Chang and Eng were joined at the base of their chests by a band of flesh. Their Siamese moniker notwithstanding, they were actually Chinese. At age 13, they were "discovered" by the Scottish merchant Robert Hunter, and in 1829, the American ship captain Abel Coffin tricked them into signing a contract and brought them to the West for a touring exhibition as "freaks of nature."

Even though they did not arrive at Boston Harbor in chains, they were treated no better than slaves. Initially advertised as monsters and thrust into a circuit of commercialized freak shows, they traveled along the young nation's back roads to bring entertainment to the masses. They also toured Great Britain for a year, further enriching their promoters. But they were denied entry to France, the native land of Rabelaisian giants and Victor Hugo's bell-ringing Hunchback of Notre Dame, because the French officials feared "maternal impressions," a time-honored belief that a pregnant woman seeing a monster would lead to deformation of her unborn baby.

The twins may have been objects of curiosity, but they were by no means passive, mute display pieces. Having imbibed the young democracy's fresh vapors, they began to fight for their independence. Upon turning 21 in May 1832, they drafted and signed a lengthy letter detailing their abuse and exploitation by Coffin, who was abroad on business. They were now, they pronounced, "their own men." By the time Coffin returned a few months later, they had struck out on their own.

Chang and Eng used their new freedom to hire a manager who would work for them, rather than the other way around, and continued to travel the highways, byways and waterways of America, from town to town. Never part of any circus troupe in those years, the two plucky entrepreneurs turned themselves into the most popular showmen of antebellum America.

By 1839, weary of the road and the prying eyes of the public, Chang and Eng retired to Wilkes County in North Carolina, an area of hills and hollows nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In this arcadia, their conjoined life once again thrust them back into the spotlight.

Having amassed a substantial fortune, they bought land, built houses and turned themselves into Southern gentlemen farmers. Although federal law limited the privileges of naturalized citi-

The Amazing American Story of the Original SIAMESE TWINS

Exploited as 'freaks of nature,' they broke free, got rich, created big families—and sided with the Confederacy



CHANG AND ENG BUNKER circa 1865, returning to the show circuit after going bankrupt in the Civil War.

zenship to "free white persons," the small number of Chinese in the U.S. were sometimes considered "honorary whites," and the twins were able to use their celebrity status, wealth and connections to acquire American citizenship.

Even more shocking, in 1843, the twins married two white sisters, Adelaide and Sarah, daughters of a well-to-do farmer, David Yates. The unusual union, forbidden by anti-miscegenation laws and denigrated as "bestial" by penny-press editors, was a sensational event in an antebellum America riddled with racial anxiety.

The families settled shortly thereafter in Mount Airy, N.C., near the Virginia border.

The twins and their wives would produce altogether 21 children, sending national tabloids and local gossip mills into endless speculations as to their bedroom manners. It would be an understatement to say that the logistics defied what is often characterized as the erotic reserve and moral earnestness of Victorian America.

At their double wedding, Chang and Eng had received the gift of a slave woman from their father-in-law. Thereafter, the story of the Siamese Twins takes an even more unexpected turn, entering what Primo Levi called the "gray zone" of humanity, a treacherous murky ground where the exploited becomes the exploiter, the victim turns victimizer. Treated much like slaves in their first years in the U.S., the twins would now own and trade slaves themselves and, reputedly, even father children with their slaves. At the peak of their wealth, Chang and Eng possessed 32 slaves, worth about \$26,550, according to county tax records.

When the Civil War broke out, Chang and Eng, as slaveholding Southern gentry, stood staunchly with the Confederacy. Although they themselves could not join the military, the twins sent their first sons, Christopher and Stephen, to the battlefields, where the two biracial Bunkers were wounded and captured by Union troops.

The twins were fortunate to see their sons come home alive, but the war meant the freeing of their slaves and wiped out their financial investments, made in Confederate money. Defeated and broke, they had no choice but to resort to the one asset they still possessed: their conjoined body. They hit the road again as itinerant showmen.

This time, they took along some of their children, occasionally even their wives, to show the world that however abnormal they might look, their double union with two white women was able to produce normal offspring.

On the chilly morning of Jan. 17, 1874, Chang and Eng died at home in Mount Airy—Chang first and Eng a few hours later. Their legacy, not sur-

They married two white sisters and had 21 children.

prisingly, survives far beyond their deaths. Their brand name now applies to every pair of conjoined twins. Their proud descendants number more than 1,500 today. Their shared liver is on permanent display as an anatomical curiosity at the Mütter Museum in Philadelphia.

The twins' adopted hometown of Mount Airy, where they lived for almost three decades, became the birthplace of the actor Andy Griffith and the inspiration for Mayberry, the fictional setting for the popular 1960s American sitcom, "The Andy Griffith Show." In the peaceful hamlet of Mayberry, as fans of the show know, everyone is kith or kin, and there's no trouble too big for the amiable sheriff and his bungling deputy Barney Fife to resolve.

Mayberry is the very picture of American normalcy, which is what the Siamese Twins, in their unrelenting fight, were trying to achieve. They were indeed "professional mountain climbers," but in a very different way from what President Trump intended. As Andy might have said to Barney about their story, "If you wrote this into a play, nobody'd believe it."

Mr. Huang is a professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara. This essay is adapted from his new book, "Inseparable: The Original Siamese Twins and Their Rendezvous with American History," which will be published on April 3 by Liveright.

FOUND: THE LONG-LOST LINK TO KING'S LAST SPEECH

BY CAMERON MCWHIRTER

ON THE NIGHT before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated—50 years ago next week—he delivered a 43-minute unprepared speech to a crowd of more than 2,500 people at a black church in Memphis. It became known as the "mountaintop" speech, one of his most renowned.

While thunder rumbled outside and windows rattled, Dr. King recounted how a decade earlier in Harlem, a deranged black woman had stabbed him in the chest with a letter opener. The blade had come so close to Dr. King's aorta, his doctor told reporters, that if he had sneezed just then, he would have been killed.

Toward the end of the April 3, 1968, speech, the last he ever delivered, the 39-year-old Dr. King mentioned a letter that he had received while recuperating in Harlem Hospital from the 1958 stabbing. It began, he said: "I am a ninth-grade student at the White Plains High School." She said, "While it should not matter, I would like to mention that I'm a white girl." The letter concluded, Dr. King said, "I am so happy you didn't sneeze."

"If I had sneezed," Dr. King repeated that night as a refrain, there would not have been the many achievements of the civil-rights



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. in Memphis the night before his death.

movement in the previous decade, including the March on Washington, the Civil Rights Act and the sanitation workers' strike that he was in Memphis to support.

For a half-century, historians and researchers haven't been able to locate the letter or its author. They have scoured archives, checked yearbooks and asked alumni at the school. Frank Williams, executive director of the White Plains, N.Y., Youth Bureau, said that he has tried for years to figure it out. Andy Bass, a historian who has researched Dr. King's ties in Westchester County, looked into the

sneeze letter's origins and eventually grew skeptical that it existed, he said.

Michele Schoenfeld, district clerk and de facto historian of the White Plains City School District, said that she has received inquiries about the unnamed girl and the sneeze letter every year for the past 35 years. "We've never been able to find anything," she said recently.

But the mystery, it would seem, has finally been solved. In one of the world's largest archives of Dr. King's correspondence, owned by his alma mater Morehouse College, The Wall Street Journal has found a letter that

contains the "sneeze" passage.

Jean Kepler, a 37-year-old white mother and civil-rights activist from Pleasantville, N.Y., near White Plains, wrote Dr. King a three-page letter with blue ink on white paper. It ended with: "I am so glad you didn't sneeze!"

The letter is among roughly 1,800 that he received while at Harlem Hospital after Izola Curry stabbed him at a book-signing on Sept. 20, 1958. Then-Vice President Richard Nixon, performer Harry Belafonte and gospel singer Mahalia Jackson sent messages. Singer Lena Horne sent pink rose buds.

No piece of his hospital correspondence in the Morehouse archive mentions White Plains High School, however.

No letter starts the way that Dr. King remembered in his speech. The large King archive at Boston University does not possess a "sneeze" letter and Stanford University's King papers project has not found one. A review of the material at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, currently headed by Dr. King's daughter Bernice, found no letter mentioning the sneeze.

Several historians asked by the Journal to review Ms. Kepler's 1958

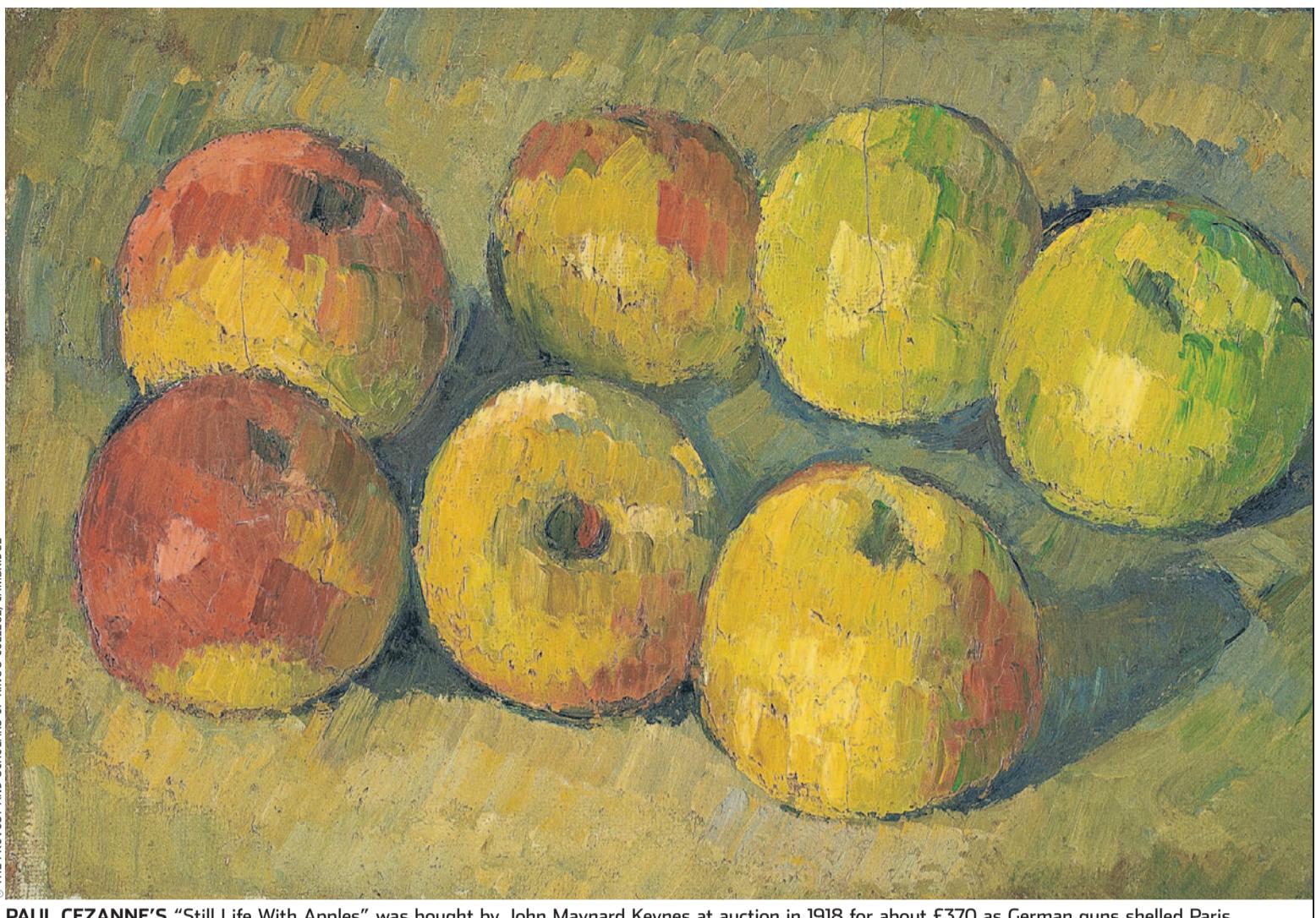
letter said that they believe it is the one to which Dr. King refers in his 1968 speech. David J. Garrow, a Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of Dr. King, said that he is "quite convinced" that Ms. Kepler's letter is the one. "He remembers the language exactly but just got the I.D. wrong," he said. Mr. Bass, the Westchester historian, agrees: "He basically took that great line and kind of spiced it up." Others said that it wasn't the only time that Dr. King had tapped material from memory and misattributed its source.

When told about Ms. Kepler's letter and the historians' assessment, Ms. Schoenfeld at the White Plains School District said, "Well, that explains why we never found anything. I'm glad to hear it so now I can stop looking."

Mrs. Kepler's daughter, Kendel Yackeren, said her mother often wrote to people in the news about social justice. In her letter to Dr. King, Mrs. Kepler, who died in 1971, wrote that "the lady who did this to you must have been very confused and sick in her mind and I feel sure that you are the kind of a big person who can forgive her—even for this."

—Lisa Schwartz contributed to this article.

REVIEW



PAUL CEZANNE'S "Still Life With Apples" was bought by John Maynard Keynes at auction in 1918 for about £370 as German guns shelled Paris.

When Keynes Played Art Buyer

A century ago, the economist got masterpieces for the U.K., pleased his bohemian friends and won a Cézanne for himself

BY JASON ZWEIG

JUST DAYS before the start of World War I in 1914, the British Treasury urgently summoned the brilliant economist John Maynard Keynes to serve as an adviser. His Majesty's government would need to fund the war while lending heavily to France and other allies to keep them from collapsing. Keynes, then just 31, devoted himself to the war effort for the next four years, living (as he later wrote) "in daily contact with the immense anxieties and impossible financial requirements of those days."

As if the job itself weren't stressful enough, it also alienated Keynes from the friends he cared most about: the artists, philosophers and writers of the Bloomsbury Group. A loose set devoted to free thought, free love and, as Keynes later put it, "the creation and enjoyment of aesthetic experience," the group included Virginia Woolf, her sister Vanessa Bell, Vanessa's husband Clive Bell and his fellow art critic Roger Fry, the artist Duncan Grant and the writer Lytton Strachey. They were pacifists, and by 1918, many of them were turning their backs on Keynes for his help in financing a war they detested.

So Keynes took matters into his own hands. A hundred years ago this week, the young man who would become the most influential economist of the 20th century executed a scheme for winning his way back into the good graces of his bohemian circle. He would do it through art.

Visiting the studio of Roger Fry in March 1918, Keynes's friend (and former lover) Duncan Grant spotted an auction catalog for the coming sale in Paris of the art collection of Edgar Degas, the great impressionist painter who had died the year before. Degas had collected hundreds of works by other artists whom he admired. Grant asked whether Keynes could persuade the Treasury to send the National Gallery money to buy some of the paintings.

As it turned out, Keynes was alarmed at the time by the weakness of the French franc against the pound. He realized that by obtaining artistic masterpieces, Britain would obviate the need to collect on a portion of the loans, which the French would probably never be able to pay off anyway. The move would also inject cash into the ravaged French economy—and show his Bloomsbury friends that he was no warmongering philistine.

Keynes sprang into action, working, as he recalled, "23 hours in the last 35." He talked a senior Treasury official into his scheme, then drafted a letter in favor of the idea and got Charles Holmes, director of the National Gallery, to sign it. Holmes and Keynes recruited the support of Lord Curzon, a powerful member of the cabinet. Finally, Keynes brought the plan to Andrew Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"My picture coup was a whirlwind affair," Keynes wrote to Van-

essa Bell on March 23, "carried through in a day and a half before anyone had time to reflect what they are doing." In a letter to his mother the same day, Keynes said that Bonar Law, who signed a draft for £20,000 to purchase the art, was "very much amused at my wanting to buy pictures and eventually let me have my way as a sort of joke." The chancellor remarked that "this was the first occasion that he had ever known me in favor of any expenditure whatever," wrote Keynes, whose work at the Treasury had focused on penny-pinching and borrowing to fund the war.

Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant were thrilled by Keynes's scheme. Their friend David Garnett wrote to him that "you have been given complete absolution and future crimes also forgiven."

Keynes had to be in Paris that week for a financial meeting of the Allies, and he went to the auction with Holmes, who disguised himself to avoid being recognized as an agent of the National Gallery. The sale was held in the glass-ceilinged Galerie Georges Petit on the Rue de Sèze. One hour into the auction, at 3

p.m. on March 26, "a dull 'Boom' sounded outside, as if a smallish bomb had dropped," Holmes wrote in his memoir. A few people left. At 3:15, as the most important paintings were about to come on the block, another explosion shook the neighborhood—actually shelling from a giant new German gun—and more bidders bolted for the door.

Using the money that Keynes had wheedled from the Treasury, Holmes bought a clutch of masterpieces for the National Gallery, including the portrait of Monsieur de Norvins by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres; Édouard Manet's "The Execution of Maximilian" and "Woman with a Cat"; a still life of flowers by Paul Gauguin; the portrait of Louis-Auguste Schwiter by Eugène Delacroix; and an Italian landscape by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot. All told, he acquired about two dozen works for approximately £15,000.

But Holmes refused to purchase anything by Cézanne. The prickly postimpressionist painter had died less than 12 years earlier, and no museum in Britain had yet dared to display his work. So Keynes bought a Cézanne for himself—a superb still life of seven apples—for about £370. He also bought three works by Delacroix and Ingres.

The two men wrapped their purchases in waterproof paper, then boarded a train teeming with Parisians fleeing the German bombardment. At Boulogne, they joined a convoy of hospital ships and crossed the heaving English Channel, on high alert for German mines and torpedoes.

After traveling almost nonstop for 24 hours, Keynes eventually arrived at the farmhouse where Grant, Vanessa Bell and her husband Clive lived. Exhausted from lack of food and sleep, Keynes tossed the suitcase with the Cézanne into the hedgerow, trudged up the secluded lane leading to the house and walked in as the group was eating dinner.

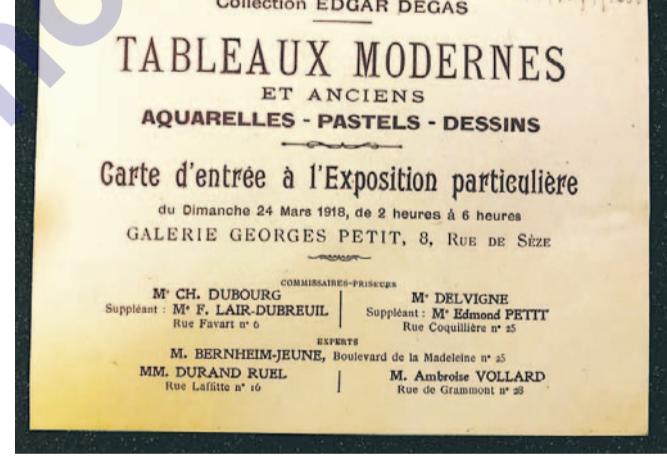
"I've got a Cézanne in my suitcase," he proclaimed. "It was too heavy for me to carry, so I've left it in the ditch, behind the gate."

The effect was electrifying. Grant and David Garnett, who was also there, sprang up and sprinted off to fetch the suitcase. They easily found it in the clear moonlight.

Just four years earlier, Clive Bell had written that "Cézanne is the Christopher Columbus of a new continent of form." Cézanne himself had said, "I want to astonish Paris with an apple." And he did. As the mid-20th-century art critic Meyer Schapiro observed, Cézanne "gave almost lifelong attention" to painting apples, perhaps because of their ancient associations with love, fertility and sin.

On Apr. 15, 1918, Virginia Woolf and Roger Fry first laid eyes on the Cézanne at Keynes's home in London: "Roger very nearly lost his senses," she wrote. "I've never seen such a sight of intoxication. He was like a bee on a sunflower. Imagine snow falling outside, a wind like there is in the Tube, an atmosphere of yellow grains of dust, and us all gloating upon these apples.... The longer one looks the larger and heavier and greener and redder they become."

Today, the Cézanne is displayed at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, along with several other major paintings collected by Keynes. Visitors today can only imagine what the painting must have looked like a century ago on that moonlit night, as Keynes and his friends exulted over capturing it during wartime.



KEYNES'S admission ticket for the preview of the Degas auction, top; above, Keynes (right) with painter Duncan Grant in 1926.

WORD ON THE STREET: BEN ZIMMER

A Big Racket In Scandals: 'Hush Money'

BACK IN JANUARY, The Wall Street Journal reported that President Donald Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen paid former adult-film actress Stephanie Clifford \$130,000 to stay silent about an alleged affair with Mr. Trump in 2006. At the time of the January article, Mr. Cohen released a statement signed by Ms. Clifford that read, "Rumors that I have received hush money from Donald Trump are completely false."

But on "60 Minutes" last Sunday, Ms. Clifford, known professionally as Stormy Daniels, confirmed that the payment was, in fact, "hush money," claiming that she had been pressured to deny the affair out of fear for her family's safety.

The expression goes back more than three centuries and was long used to describe money paid to keep something secret, or "hush it up." "Hush" likely stems from the Middle English word "husht," which could be used as an interjection to quiet someone or as an adjective meaning "silent." "Hush" began getting used as a verb for imposing silence by the mid-16th century, and soon thereafter the phrase "hush up" gained currency for suppressing discussion on a particular topic, especially one that is scandalous or potentially embarrassing.

"Hush money" is first recorded in the Tatler, a London society journal, in 1709: "I expect Hush-Money to be regularly sent for every Folly or Vice any one commits in this whole Town."

Jonathan Swift, a frequent contributor to the Tatler, used it in his 1731 poem, "An Epistle to Mr. Gay": "A dext'rous steward, when his tricks are found, Hush-money sends to all the neighbours round." That was enough to get the attention of Samuel Johnson, who included "hush money" (with the quotation from Swift) in his 1755 dictionary, defined as "a bribe to hinder information; pay to secure silence."

The phrase was exported across the Atlantic as well, a handy term to use in the political scandals of the budding American republic. In the country's first major sex scandal, it was revealed in 1797 that Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton had made secret payments to the husband of Maria Reynolds to cover up an affair between her and Hamilton. The blackmail first leaked out in a pamphlet by the scoundrel James T. Callender, to which Hamilton responded in his own notorious "Reynolds Pamphlet" (as any fan of the musical "Hamilton" knows).

While "hush money" has not been found in any of the contemporary documents about the Reynolds Affair, the term was certainly known to the Founding Fathers. In fact, Hamilton's rival Thomas Jef-

erson used the expression in two separate letters to James Monroe: once in 1785 when he was ambassador to France and again in 1801 when he was president and dealing with his own threat from Callender (who a year later would disclose that Jefferson had fathered children with his slave, Sally Hemings).

"Hush money" would continue to pop up in political scandals, notably when payments made to the Watergate burglars were found to be authorized by President Richard Nixon. While Nixon denied trying to buy the defendants' silence, White House tape recordings later revealed the president muttering, "goddamn hush money...how do we get this stuff?"

Answers

to the News Quiz on page C13:

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

BOOKS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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Saturday/Sunday, March 31 - April 1, 2018

The Winning Marquee

dgers & Hammerstein were wise stewards of one of the most successful brands in American entertainment.

Something Wonderful

Todd S. Purdum

386 pages, \$32

BY BRAD LEITHAUSER

TERRAIN MAPPED

by Todd S. Purdum's "Something Wonderful" is underfoot. The book's subtitle is "Lerner and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution," but many early pages are devoted to Lorenz Hart, Hammerstein's predecessor as Richard Rodgers's lyricist. Hammerstein died in 1960, but indefatigable Rodgers went on finding notable collaborators (Stephen Sondheim, Alan Jay Lerner, etc.), and "Something Wonderful" follows him into this territory as well. We have here Rodgers and post-Hammerstein.

The book's ranginess seems less a result of lack of focus than an acknowledgment of the clangorous recordings of the Broadway landscape over the decades. Hammerstein's ground was in operetta (early on, he teamed up with Sigmund Romberg and Rudolf Friml), and you can imagine him, in some only slightly modified universe, steadily churning out tunes for tunes perhaps set in the mountains of Morocco (like those in Romberg's "Desert Song") or the Canadian Rockies (Friml's "Canadian Love Call") but whose lilting melody remained in Vienna. Fate had other plans for Hammerstein, though. After long, in the company of George Gershwin, he was plying the Mississippi in "Show Boat." ("Ol' Man River / Dat Ol' Man River / He must be sumpin' / But don't say

the composer and lyricist were rare in being both artistic innovators and savvy businessmen.

"...) And eventually, as Rodgers's career, he found himself out in the Great Plains. ("Oklahoma! / Every day my honey lamb and I / Sit alone and talk / And watch a hawk / Makin' circles in the sky.") Not merely graphically, but colloquially, too, Hammerstein was destined to come to America.

The lyrics to "Show Boat" and "Oklahoma!" were an embracing of an American argot, whether issuing from

BEAUTIFUL MORNING

The 'Dream Ballet' from the original Broadway production of 'Oklahoma!', which ran from 1943 through 1948.



the mouths of blacks laboring along a steamy riverway or whites home-steading upon a wind-raked prairie. Hammerstein was echoing Hart in this pursuit, whose work championed American slang and an American candor flexibility of language. The two men are more often contrasted than compared, but each showed a respect and affection for the speech patterns of that figure—at once mundane and mythological—known popularly as the man in the street.

Both Hammerstein and Hart often get a bad rap. Hammerstein is derided, not always unfairly, for his sentimentality. (Any lyricist who opens a show with the announcement that "the hills are alive with the sound of music" is probably asking for it.) Hart is sometimes reproached for his slapdash imprecisions. (Mr. Sondheim referred to him as the "laziest of the preeminent lyricists.") Yet each wrote lyrics of startling intuition, helping to fuse songs of a resonance and romance that begin to look imperishable. Those songs are forever being

rerecorded. And given how fresh they seem, it's a little hard to believe the lyrics may date back nearly a century.

Where the two lyricists differ most markedly is in their use of rhyme. Reveling in a joyful din, Hart threw gluey clusters of words together, savoring unlikely looking trisyllabic rhymes (laughable / unphotographable; lack myself / back myself), whereas Hammerstein's rhymes tend to be unostentatious and tersely monosyllabic. Hart loved to disassemble language, linking syllable with syllable, blithely ignoring the boundaries that separate word from word (hero / queer ro[mance]; keener re[ception] / beanery). Hammerstein tended to treat words as inviolate. Hart's approach, for all the heartache of some of his songs, was essentially playful. For this reason, Mr. Sondheim's slamming of Hart's "sloppy" approach seems both accurate and somewhat off point; many of the lyrics are pure celebrations of linguistic exuberance, and as such—like the nonsense verse of Lewis Carroll or

Edward Lear—ought to be exempt from most complaints of illogic or inconsistency. They are to be judged instead on whether or not they're clever and catchy and fun.

Hammerstein's lyrics are typically expressions of strong feeling—character sketches. It's impossible to imagine Hart writing, as Hammerstein once did, "The most important ingredient of a good song is sincerity" or "A rhyme should be unassertive, never standing out too noticeably." Hammerstein's lyrics are a portrait gallery of people who typically are not verbal acrobats; for them, any show-off rhyming risks sounding artificial and disingenuous. He does more than keep his rhymes plain. It's striking how often Hammerstein diminishes or all but abandons rhyme, favoring instead a simple but urgent repetition of phrase:

Younger than springtime are you,
Softer than starlight are you;
Warmer than winds of June
Are the gentle lips you gave me . . .

Or:

Soon you'd leave me,
Off you would go in the mist of
Never, never to know
How I loved you—
If I loved you.

Or:

Some enchanted evening
You may see a stranger,
You may see a stranger
Across a crowded room.

Or:

Do I love you
Because you are beautiful,
Or are you beautiful
Because I love you?

It's a measure of Rodgers's amazing genius that he worked so well with both men. Leonard Bernstein's tribute seems both sweeping and touching. "He is, perhaps, the most important musical theater composer of the 20th century," he writes. "Please turn to page 22."

How Smiles Were Packaged and Sold

people can't know happiness even when they feel it, the market for helping them do so will keep growing. This is America, it has.

In the mid-19th century, a clockmaker named Phineas Quimby began preaching a "mind healing" approach that, he claimed, would enable people to eradicate self-doubt, anxiety, shyness and other contributions to unhappiness. Quimby played a key role in the "New Thought" movement, a forerunner of modern cognitive-behavior therapy. "Mind cures" were neither original with Quimby nor uniquely American, given that the

asks more questions about this elusive condition than it answers.) The author begins with the origins of the modern positive-psychology movement in the postwar writings and therapeutic approaches of Viktor Frankl (an existential psychiatrist who survived the Nazi death camps), Aaron Beck (a pioneer of modern cognitive-behavior therapy) and, most of all, psychologist Abraham Maslow.

In the 1960s, Maslow, along with Carl Rogers and Rollo May, argued that it was time to counteract the then-dominant schools of psychoanalytic

different view of mankind. You are asking how tall can people grow, what can a human being become?"

That question came to underlie, invisibly, the modern positive-psychology movement, officially launched by Martin E.P. Seligman when he became president of the American Psychological Association in 1998. As Mr. Horowitz details, Mr. Seligman raised millions to give the movement its name and visibility, notably through religiously inspired donors such as the John Templeton Foundation, which hoped that positive psychology would

piness, we have a problem. Who are you, exactly? People usually describe feelings of sorrow, rage and anxiety in degrees from mild to extreme, and they do very well in describing the ecstasy of finding love or dancing the tango. But happiness? Happiness watered-down ecstasy? Is it the absence of unhappiness—a homeostatic state that might dip into despond or rise into depression and then right itself back into happiness? Is it an intermittent experience, consisting of bursts of insight that we say, "Hey! I'm really happy now!"? Is it a summary assessment of how things are going ("all in all I'm happy") or is happiness—or unhappiness—all in the details? ("I'm happy about my deadbeat brother and my job.")

The elusive nature of happiness may be the reason our Founding Fathers promised us its pursuit and not capture. Yet the failure to nab it in psychological nets is a major reason the happiness-pursuit industry has thrived for centuries. If people gain wrongheaded definitions and expectations of happiness, after all, they won't know it when it curls up on laps asking to be petted. And if

Stoic philosopher Epictetus told us 2,000 years ago that "men are disturbed not by things, but by the views which they take of things." For that matter, philosophers and religious leaders had been teaching, for even longer, that "things themselves" do not bring happiness either.

Fast forward to 1952 and Norman Vincent Peale's postwar tonic "The Power of Positive Thinking," which is the point at which historian Daniel Horowitz picks up the story of happiness' packaging and marketing and of "positive thinking" as a way to get it. (The title of Mr. Horowitz's book—"Happier?"—is commendable for the question mark, suggesting a book that

asks more questions about this elusive condition than it answers.) The author begins with the origins of the modern positive-psychology movement in the postwar writings and therapeutic approaches of Viktor Frankl (an existential psychiatrist who survived the Nazi death camps), Aaron Beck (a pioneer of modern cognitive-behavior therapy) and, most of all, psychologist Abraham Maslow.

In the 1960s, Maslow, along with Carl Rogers and Rollo May, argued that it was time to counteract the then-dominant schools of psychoanalytic

psychology must not ignore the positive aspects of life, such as joy, laughter, love, happiness and "peak experiences"—rare moments of rapture caused by the attainment of excellence or the experience of beauty. "When you select out for careful study very fine and healthy people, strong people, creative people," Maslow wrote, "then you get a very

ysis and behaviorism with a humanistic approach. Psychologists were too busy focusing on the negative side of human nature, Maslow said, including emotional disorders and neuroticism. These were worth addressing, Maslow granted, but he insisted psychology must not ignore the positive aspects of life, such as joy, laughter, love, happiness and "peak experiences"—rare moments of rapture caused by the attainment of excellence or the experience of beauty. "When you select out for careful study very fine and healthy people, strong people, creative people,"

Maslow wrote, "then you get a very

nodding to the well-replicated studies that "poverty and unemployment make people miserable, but great wealth and income do not necessarily make people significantly happier," Mr. Horowitz observes. Researchers in the positive-psychology business have not paid much attention to race, class, availability of health care or other conditions of people's lives that might affect how positive they feel. And then there's the pesky if prevalent problem of oversimplification and hype. "Despite or perhaps because of its popularity, Mr. Horowitz writes, "virtually nothing of positive psychology under consideration remains uncontested, by both insiders and outsiders. . . . Major conclusions have been challenged, modified, or even abandoned. Even what happiness means has been up for grabs."

Mr. Horowitz acknowledges his own ambivalence toward the subject, trying to balance an appreciation of positive psychology's "skepticism of some of its more simplistic or exaggerated claims." As a historian, he wonders whether the pursuit of subjective well-being should be the primary or even the primary goal of life, and he suggests that most of the people who spend time and money "pursuing positive psychology by reading books, attending workshops, and carrying out recommended exercises" are "researchers." Most important, he says, the context for that serial search "a perfect storm of insecurity and even misery" caused by world events.

Please turn to page 22

BOOKS

'Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if he destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world.' —Hillel the Elder

The Book of Books

A History of Judaism

By Martin Goodman

Princeton, 623 pages, \$39.95

BY DOMINIC GREEN

IN THE TALMUD, a pagan asks the first-century B.C. sage Hillel the Elder to teach him the whole Torah while he stands on one foot. Hillel replies with the Golden Rule: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. The rest is commentary; go and learn." In Hillel's time, Greek skepticism and the Roman Empire had the Jews on the back foot. His dictum remains popular in our skeptical time, which also prefers reason over revelation, and the armed truce of "interfaith" tolerance over open hostilities. But consult the redaction of oral law in the Mishnah (ca. 200), and you get a different answer. In Pirkei Avot, the "Ethics of the Fathers," the world rests on three pillars: "Torah, avodah, gemilut hasadim." While the third principle, "acts of loving kindness," has remained stable from Hillel's day to ours, *avodah* ("service") has been transmuted from priestly sacrifices to communal prayer, and Torah has been transformed by extension.

Even in Hillel's time, however, Jewishness had three legs: peoplehood, religion and culture. Martin Goodman's "History of Judaism" is a learned and illuminating treatment of only the second leg, but this magnificently lucid account will become the standard reference for a generation. Mr. Goodman, a professor of Jewish Studies at Oxford, sketches every figure, defines every movement and captures the "kaleidoscopic variety" of Judaism's modulating expressions without losing sight of its living core. He is an invaluable guide to the faith that has led the Jews like the pillar of fire that guided Moses and the Hebrews in the desert.

By Hillel's time, the age of prophecy was over. The canon of the Hebrew Bible had formed—the Greek wisdom of Ecclesiastes was in, but the Greek wisdom of Ben Sira (Ecclesiasticus) was out. The Shema, the daily prayer whose title means "Listen!" had been the stuff of Judean amulets for centuries: "Hear O Israel, The Lord is Our God, The Lord is One." And Platonic doctrines about the soul and the afterlife had been reconciled with the core principles of monotheism. But we and the rabbis of the Mishnah are divided from Hillel and ancient Judaism by the destruction of the Second Temple in the year 70.

The temple at Jerusalem, Mr. Goodman writes, had been "the primary link between Israel and God," just as Solomon had envisaged. It had been one of the architectural "wonders of the Roman Empire," and its quasi-Homeric sacrifices of bulls and sheep attracted "non-Jewish tourists as well as masses of Jewish worshippers." Its destruction by Titus's legions led to the fall of the Judean state and its priesthood—and to the rebuilding of Judaism.

The synagogue, "one of the most striking religious innovations in antiquity," already existed as a secondary institution; public reading from the Torah had been instituted by Ezra the Scribe in the fifth century B.C., after the return from Babylon. There was also an existing diaspora, including large Jewish communities at Babylon, Rome and Alexandria. But the synagogue soon became the primary link to God, and the dispersion of his people was now theologized as Galut, a repeat of the Babylonian Exile, on a larger and more lasting scale.

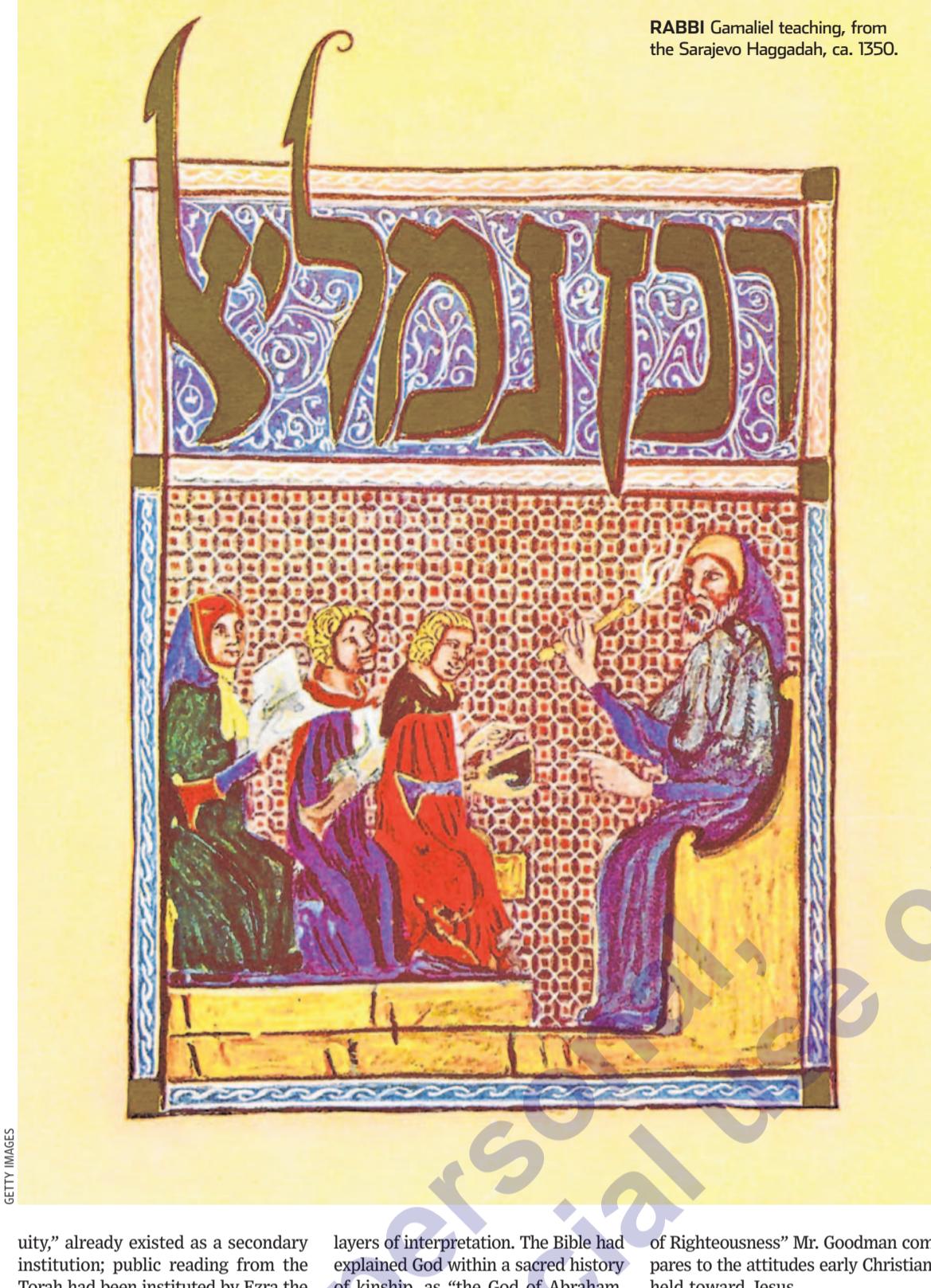
The rest really was commentary. Torah still meant the Five Books of Moses and the right living they engendered, but it also came to mean the layers of study and interpretation that surround the "common core of all later forms of Judaism" like the insulation around a nuclear reactor. Rabbinic Judaism, forged amid philosophical challenge and physical destruction, preserved this core into the modern age. The sparks still flew upwards.

Doctrines expressing Judaism's core beliefs developed slowly, through

layers of interpretation. The Bible had explained God within a sacred history of kinship, as "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." The Hellenistic era forced Judaism to develop a consistent worldview—consistent, that is, with the universalism of Greek philosophy and Roman power. The result was disagreement over purity, calendars and Sabbath observation; speculation about demons and angels; discordant prophecies about the "immediate and eschatological future"; and bitter debate about the "value of martyrdom" as well as the "expectation for life after death."

The sparks now flew outwards. In the first century, the "dramatically different theological complexions" of Judaism led to the sectarianism of revolt, civil war and Christianity. Mr. Goodman excels in sifting the partial evidence we have about groups like the long-haired Nazrites, the sociable Haverim, the stringent Essenes and the Yahad group at Qumran, whose reverence for their deceased "Teacher

RABBI Gamaliel teaching, from the Sarajevo Haggadah, ca. 1350.



GETTY IMAGES

massacres by Christians demanded a theology of martyrdom; the kaddish prayer for the deceased entered the Ashkenazi liturgy. Eastern Jews adopted the Muslim habits of head-covering and visiting saints' tombs, or were influenced by the neo-Platonist themes of Sufism. "In marked contrast to the strict controls on theological speculation in contemporary Christian circles," Mr. Goodman writes, "and the necessary restraints for rabbis themselves when ruling on halakhah, it was possible to dream with little restraint about the nature of the divine and its secret revelation through the enigmatic words of scripture." Nor did Judaism penalize "failure to depict cor-

This magnificent account of Jewish belief should become the standard reference for a generation.

rectly the nature of the divine world" with automatic accusations of heresy.

Thus mystical speculation developed dialectically with rabbinic law. While the great medieval commentators, Rashi on the Talmud and Maimonides on Jewish law, were clarifying the plain meaning of the halakhah, their rabbinic peers were creating the speculative mysticism of the Zohar. While Isaac Luria expounded the kaballah following the expulsion from Spain, Joseph Caro updated the practical application of halakhah in the Shulchan Aruch code of laws (1563). In the 18th century, while Polish Jews followed charismatic Hasidic leaders, Lithuanian Jews followed the intellectual austerities of the Gaon of Vilna.

The consensus broke down in 19th-century Europe. When the Reform Jews of Germany adopted the privatized religious model of Christianity, another German Jew, Samson Raphael Hirsch, responded with the new traditionalism of Orthodoxy. In the U.S., a third stream, Conservative Judaism, tried to reconcile Reform aspirations with Orthodox rigor. Further minorities responded with the secular heresies of Zionism and socialism.

Judaism did not die in the Holocaust, nor was it superannuated by Zionism. Today, Judaism is the state religion of nearly half the world's Jews. The diaspora has never been so well connected to the land of Israel; the internet, like the printed Talmud in the 16th century, standardizes "norms and expectations" as it spreads them. Hebrew literacy has never been so high, and the "extraordinary fecundity" of ultra-Orthodox Jews is tipping the demographic balance. So far, the Jews' "consistent thread" of grudging tolerance for one another's opinions has held.

Citing Josephus, the historian who witnessed the destruction of the Second Temple, Mr. Goodman advises "reticence in predicting what will happen in the next century." Meanwhile, the first responsa on the halakhah of space travel already have been issued.

Mr. Green is a historian and critic.

The History of Happiness

Continued from page C5

changes—from globalization to deteriorating economic conditions—that take place outside the frightened, hopeless individual. If religion no longer alleviates fear as it once did, surely workshops that preach optimism, hope, determination and resilience will do it. Or will they?

Martin Seligman's "The Hope Circuit" is a memoir that will likely appeal only to his family and any adoring follower who hungers to know every aspect of his life and thoughts. For most others, it will read like a self-published memoir by a retired great-uncle wishing to reflect and pontificate on his life to impress the children. It's full of photos that mean little to readers but everything to the narrator ("Martin in 1946, the blue-eyed boy with ringlets of platinum blond hair" reads the caption of one of them) and of stories only a mother could love (how, as a child in 1952, Mr. Seligman became Albany's Quiz Kid by knowing that "Connecticut" is the only state that ends in "ut."). The author's bragging sometimes reaches unintentionally funny, Trumpian heights: Right at the start he tells us that he became APA president "by the largest vote in APA history" and how he rescued his entire profession single-handedly from its gloomy focus on human troubles: "Your job, Marty,"

one APA officer apparently told him, "is to transform American psychology." The author goes on to explain that he bravely agreed to lead that transformation, to create a "new psychology of hope."

Martin Seligman was hardly the first psychologist in history to create a psychology of hope. Indeed, Abraham Maslow and his fellow humanists and philosophers were writing about hope and other topics in positive psychology when Mr. Seligman was in platinum ringlets, and Mr. Horowitz writes that as early as 1946 "the World Health Organization announced its commitment to seeing 'health' as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

Mr. Seligman apologizes, sort of, for slighting Maslow, who after all was the first to use the term "positive psychology," by saying he wrongly conflated Maslow's humanism with "crystal healing and aromatherapy." But that's all Mr. Seligman admits. "On the other hand," he explains, with unselfconscious narcissism, "Maslow came too early . . . spotty scholar that I am, I had not read much Maslow, and so his writings played little role in my own thinking. Had I invoked Maslow, however appropriately, it would have been window dressing. Positive psychology arose directly

from my take on the shortcomings of mainstream clinical and experimental evidence." The lesson? You too can be a brilliant and original innovator! Just don't read anyone whose identical innovations "came too early"—early

ing with the Army to create a Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program—an enterprise that enraged many members of the APA for its blurring of uncertain science and politics—to co-creating the Authentic Happiness



enough to have influenced others who might have influenced you.

Nevertheless, what Mr. Seligman did that no one had done previously, Mr. Horowitz suggests, was make positive psychology a movement that generated staggering financial and entrepreneurial success. Mr. Seligman left no application unexplored, from enlisting the APA's support in partner-

Coaching Program, "which used teleconferencing to train more than 1,000 coaches in 19 nations."

Mr. Horowitz's straightforward, comprehensive history of the positive-psychology movement follows the money wherever it leads—and it leads everywhere. He presents every controversy, representing defenders of positive psychology as fully as its critics—

including my favorite critic, Barbara Ehrenreich, whose book "Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking Is Undermining America" (2009) was a deft takedown of positive psychology's promotion of itself and Mr. Seligman's promotion of himself. Mr. Seligman takes full advantage of the Memoirist's Revenge—the chance to rebut her and other critics who have raised objections that range from "positive psychology is individualistic and selfish" to "positive psychology is just old wine in new bottles."

The modern positive-psychology movement—like Phineas Quimby's—is a blend of wise goals, good studies, surprising discoveries, old truths and overblown promises. Daniel Horowitz's history deftly reveals the eternal lessons that underlie all its incarnations: Money can't buy happiness; human beings need social bonds, satisfying work and strong communities; a life based entirely on the pursuit of pleasure ultimately becomes pleasureless. As Viktor Frankl told us, "Happiness cannot be pursued; it must ensue. One must have a reason to be happy." That reason, he said, emerges from the pursuit of purpose.

Ms. Tavris is a social psychologist and the co-author, with Elliot Aronson, of "Mistakes Were Made (But Not by Me)."

BOOKS

'Our chief want in life is somebody who shall make us do what we can.' —Ralph Waldo Emerson

FICTION CHRONICLE: SAM SACKS

The Feminist Circle of Life

IN A PARADIGM- shifting essay for the New York Times in 2012, Meg Wolitzer considered the prejudices that had come to define the invidious category of "women's fiction." The label, she observed, reflexively denoted something miniature and domestic—a book for reading-group discussion, not for serious literary consideration. You could identify such books by their pastel-colored cover art and modest length, which enforced the idea that sprawling tomes were for men to produce, while women quietly whittled their two inches of ivory.

The characterization was eye-opening because it seemed both ridiculous and accurate. On one hand, "The Tale of Genji" and "Middlemarch" give the lie to the notion that women don't write long novels, as do the doorstoppers routinely published by A.S. Byatt, Joyce Carol Oates, Donna Tartt, Sarah Waters, et al., ad infinitum. Yet through some combination of marketing, mythology and Norman Mailer, the stereotype that size signifies male virility has stuck, with the pernicious knock-on effect of cheapening the achievement of beautifully written "small" books. "If a woman writes something short these days, particularly if it's about a woman," Ms. Wolitzer noted, "it risks being considered minor."

That risk was no doubt on Ms. Wolitzer's mind when she turned from focused, funny novels like "This Is My Life" (about a female stand-up comic) and "The Uncoupling" (a suburban update of "Lysis-trata") to write "The Interestings," a decades-spanning saga following the fortunes of a clique of six talented friends. Its Great American Novel-style sweep made it look like a conscious effort to resist pigeonholing. Yet, tellingly, the book itself is about the double-edged sword of ambition. The friends vow in their youth to become world-beaters, but only two grow up to find fame. The novel explores the psychological fallout from their unequal successes, and the flaws in our conception of success in the first place.

Ms. Wolitzer's latest, "The Female Persuasion" (Riverhead, 456 pages, \$28), is a big book on the hot-button subject of feminism that seems, like its predecessor, ambivalent about its attention-grabbing scope and topicality. It centers on Greer Kadetsky, an introverted undergrad who is turned on to women's rights after being groped by a frat boy whose serial assaults



earn him nothing more than a slap on the wrist. At a campus talk Greer meets Faith Frank, a 63-year-old feminist icon "a couple of steps down from Gloria Steinem in fame." When Greer graduates, Faith puts her to work at her glitzy women's foundation, Loci, whose funds come from a questionable venture capitalist. It's the feminist circle of life—in Greer, Faith finds an adoring apprentice eager to absorb her wisdom and carry on her ideals.

Naturally, it doesn't work out so simply. Ms. Wolitzer is very smart about the gritty realpolitik of activist movements, both in the concessions they make to corporate money and in the cutthroat tactics their leaders use to gain acclaim. Greer becomes a best-selling writer herself, but her lean-in feminism is contrasted, not very flatteringly, with the lives of two other characters. Her closest college friend, Zee, who never had the good luck to be anointed by Faith Frank, teaches in an inner city before becoming a crisis response counselor. Greer's high school sweetheart Cory abandons a lucrative career in finance after a family tragedy strikes, instead moving home to care for his mother. "I think there are two kinds of feminists," Zee tells Greer. "The famous ones, and everyone else."

Curiously, the ancillary storylines about Zee and Cory are the novel's most affecting portions. Ms. Wolitzer's appreciation for their local, "undersung" acts of kindness and social change may account for the hesitancy in her portrayal of

Faith, the novel's ostensible figure of interest. "Faith went to marches for the Equal Rights Amendment," we read of her formative experiences. "She hung around after meetings, long into the night, to talk to many women." As an evocation of the rough-and-tumble heyday of second-wave feminism, this is remarkably flat, and descriptions

An ambitious young woman enters the orbit, and furthers the work, of her intellectual role model.

of the environment at Loci are no more textured. One woman is introduced as "pretty, early twenties, in a yellow dress," place-holding details so vague that they do little beyond fill the pages. It's impossible to get a feel for Faith's magnetism, or for the gifts that makes Greer her natural successor.

Near the end of "The Female Persuasion" Greer comes to realize that even flawed messages have the power to encourage and inspire. In that sense the novel is a meaningful statement, a drawn-out work on big issues written by a woman at the pinnacle of her career. Still, I missed the perfect short book hidden somewhere inside it.

Richard Powers, whose latest novel, "The Overstory" (Norton, 502 pages, \$27.95), is his twelfth, has always been a maximalist writer, though this is a matter of

artistic vision, not masculine preening. His books work by synthesizing diverse themes and stories into intricate patterns. Thus "Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance" intertwines meditations on painting, industry and warfare. Bach and DNA coil together in "The Gold Bug Variations." Central to these incomparable books is the search for what is sometimes called consilience—a unity of knowledge, particularly between science and the arts.

The shape "The Overstory" forms is that of a great branching tree. The story introduces a group of strangers who are gradually brought together by a shared passion for saving the last of America's old-growth forests. Included in the motley and under-realized cast are an evolutionary psychologist, a painter, an Air Force veteran and a woman galvanized by a near-death experience.

The most important is the dendrologist Patricia Westerford, a prime example of Mr. Powers's favorite stock character, the prophet-like scientist whose ideas are too groundbreaking to be fully recognized in her time. Dr. Westerford finds evidence that trees are capable of communicating in times of danger, through airborne signals and mats of underground fungi that "link trees into gigantic, smart communities spread across hundreds of acres."

The lesson trees teach about the collective responsibility of "tied-together life" is one humans have trouble grasping. "The Overstory" has much in common with Annie Proulx's "Barkskins," an epic viewed through the history of a timber company (and another massive book, while we're on the subject), but Mr. Powers is far more strident about the wages of deforestation. The story of his eco-activists is virtually operatic in its melodrama. Little surprise that one of the climactic scenes is a Götterdämmerung of fire.

But if Mr. Powers is clumsy in his depiction of persons, he's brilliant on the strange idea of "plant personhood." The novel is interested in what one character calls "unblinding"—opening our eyes to the wondrous things just above our line of sight. Memorable chapters unfold when two protestors "tree-sit" in the canopy of a giant redwood being threatened by loggers. A whole ecosystem thrives in that ancient and rarefied habitat: birds, mammals, smaller trees, even ponds with fish.

It's one of many unforgettable images in a novel devoted to "reviving that dead metaphor at the heart of the word *bewilderment*."

MYSTERIES: TOM NOLAN

She Might Be In Tangier



CHRISTINE Mangan's debut novel, "Tangerine" (Ecco, 308 pages, \$26.99), takes place in Tangier, Morocco, in

1956—with flashbacks to Bennington, Vt., and a prologue and epilogue set in Spain. Bennington is where the well-to-do Alice Shipley meets the working-class Lucy Mason. The two students become constant companions and plan a future together of travel and creativity. An example of elective affinity—or a case of *folie à deux*?

The book begins in Tangier, after Lucy and Alice have left school and gone their separate ways. Emo-

Two women, once college roommates, rekindle an obsessive friendship in midcentury Morocco.

tionally fragile Alice is now living with John, her neglectful and secretive English husband, who may or may not work in the British foreign service. One day Lucy arrives unannounced at their door from New York City—intent, it seems, on resuming her old friendship with Alice.

In chapters told in Alice's and Lucy's alternating voices, we learn that the women had a falling out, and the traumatic facts slowly emerge: events involving Alice's intrusive former boyfriend and a car crash during a Vermont blizzard.

Ms. Mangan makes good use of her arid locale—which is oppressive for Alice but inspiring to Lucy. ("Do you know it's thought that even Ulysses must have passed Tangier during his travels?" Lucy asks.) The city, with its roots in ancient mythology, encourages Lucy to embrace her impulsive nature, as when, despite warnings from Alice and John, she becomes acquainted with Youssef, a dilettante and possible con man who promises to show her the "real" Tangier. Lucy is not put off by Youssef's unsavory ways and eagerly welcomes whatever dubious adventures he may have in store for her.

The reader's sympathy switches back and forth between Lucy and Alice as their Moroccan reunion moves inexorably toward another fatal crossroads. But *caveat lector*: "Tangerine," like its namesake fruit, can be both bracing and bitter.

Tough-Minded, Jokey and Just

See What Can Be Done

By Lorrie Moore

Knopf, 407 pages, \$29.95

BY WILLIAM H. PRITCHARD

WHEN ASKED WHETHER a writer is justified in making a book out of previously published pieces—most of them book reviews—the historian Hugh Trevor-Roper replied, yes, if they have some underlying philosophy that connects them. To which the critic Cyril Connolly noted that the philosophy is every writer's desire to see the pieces combined between hard covers: "If they can make a book out of them, they will." When the novelist and short story writer Lorrie Moore asked herself whether there was a reason to round up essays she'd written since 1983, she couldn't answer. Although she has been selective, this collection of 66 items runs to over 400 pages—"thirty-four years of, well, stuff"—so the selection process can't have been a severe one. The greater part of the "stuff" appeared in the New York Times Book Review and the New York Review of Books; subtitled "Essays, Criticism, and Commentary," much of it consists of, more humbly, book reviews, for the commissioning of which she thanks Anatole Broyard, Barbara Epstein and Robert Silvers, the last of whose invitations to review regularly contained the homely injunction to "see what can be done" about the book in question.

Ms. Moore's seven books of fiction, the most recent of which is

"Bark," a 2014 collection of stories, are notable for their combination of discordant qualities—"both dark and wry" in the words of one reviewer, who found the result "hilarious and heartbreaking." Her wicked wit is demonstrated by the opening sentence of the first item in the new collection, a review of a novel by Nora Ephron, "whose name sounds like a neurotransmitter or a sinus medication." Ms. Moore has a hard

A leading American short-story writer collects 34 years of lively, often humorous critical prose.

time resisting quips like that, since she is endowed with what a character in a Wyndham Lewis novel called "the curse of humour." In her recent novel "A Gate at the Stairs," the narrator, a university student, is so full of what she calls "jokey curses" that it's hard to know how seriously to take her.

The first 200 or so pages of the new book mostly deal with novels and collections of stories: Kurt Vonnegut, Bobbie Ann Mason, V.S. Pritchett, Stanley Elkin, Don DeLillo, Charles Baxter, Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro. At times one questions the value of reading about a forgotten novel published 15 years ago like Ms. Atwood's "Oryx and Crake": "Towering and intrepid," Ms. Moore calls it, but also full of "smirk and deadpan," a

sharply turned phrase that fits much of Ms. Moore's own fiction. ("Another joke! These jokes will kill you!" declares a woman whose baby is about to undergo chemotherapy in the story "People Like That Are the Only People Here.")



SHE'S GOT THE 'STUFF' Lorrie Moore in 2009.

The strictly chronological organization of these pieces makes one ask, why not combine three separate reviews of Alice Munro or two of Margaret Atwood under single headings? But arrangement by chronology means that you get a chance to see Ms. Moore's developing powers as a critic. They are never more impressive than in two items about Philip Roth and John Updike, the occasions being Mr. Roth's novel "The Human Stain" and Updike's "The Early Stories." With Mr. Roth

she quickly situates the novel in relation to its immediate predecessors, then pulls out all the stops: "In terms of sheer productivity, brilliance, distinctly American diction, philosophical rage, comic irritability, dramatic representations of solitude,

both in quality and quantity he is "American literature's greatest short-story writer, and arguably our greatest writer without a single great novel." "Arguably" leaves it open to suggest that the Rabbit tetralogy, four novels considered as one and bound together in "Rabbit Angstrom" is, as she calls it, an "immense achievement" and also a great novel. It's also worth remarking that as a tough-minded critic who happens to be female as well, she spends no time worrying about charges of sexism or misogyny that both Updike and Mr. Roth have sometimes incurred.

The later pages of this collection, beginning around 2010, are often devoted to admiring appreciations of various television series such as "The Wire," "Homeland," "Friday Night Lights" and "True Detective." These are assessed with obvious engagement, as well as critical discrimination. Interspersed are glances at 9/11, a GOP primary debate and Barack Obama, and a postscript on the 2016 presidential election especially apropos of Hillary Clinton. What sustains overall this group of essays and commentary is a continuous critical spirit that stays in touch with life. Writing of the interlinked short stories in Joan Silber's "Ideas of Heaven," Ms. Moore notes that everyone in them "speaks in the same lively, funny, intelligent voice: the voice of the book"—a judgment that applies equally to the disparate items in "See What Can Be Done."

Mr. Pritchard is Professor of English Emeritus at Amherst College.

BOOKS

'Never say no when a client asks for something, even if it is the moon.... There is plenty of time afterwards to explain that it was not possible.' —César Ritz

Modern Hospitality

Ritz & Escoffier

By Luke Barr

Clarkson Potter, 312 pages, \$26

BY MOIRA HODGSON

THE PRINCE OF WALES, Britain's future King Edward VII, loved to eat well. He dined frequently at the Savoy, where one evening the hotel's famous chef de cuisine, Auguste Escoffier, introduced a new dish with a poetic name: *Cuisses de Nymphes à l'Aurore* (Thighs of Nymphs at Dawn). Members of the royal party were intrigued. Was it a small bird? Or what?

With pounding heart, César Ritz, the Savoy's dapper manager, revealed the identity of the so-called nymphs' thighs to be frogs' legs—a French abomination, worse even than garlic! But instead of expressing outrage the prince was so amused that a few days later he ordered them again.

The Savoy, which opened in 1889, was glamorous and cosmopolitan, an antidote to Victorian stuffiness. Its owner, Richard D'Oyly Carte, the backer of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas, had a theater next door, and his ambition was to create a modern luxury hotel the likes of which had never been seen. To fulfill his vision, in 1890 he turned to Escoffier and the Swiss hotelier Ritz, a man known for his impeccable taste, and in short order the two men, who'd had a previous success at the Grand Hotel in Monte Carlo, made the Savoy into the most famous and profitable hotel and restaurant in the world.

"Ritz & Escoffier," Luke Barr's entertaining narrative history, reads like a novel (complete with cliff hangers and descriptions of the characters' private thoughts). Both of its subjects had grown up poor, but were opposites temperamentally. Mr. Barr, a former features editor at Travel + Leisure magazine, describes the 39-year-old Ritz as "outgoing, debonair, and excitable." He was "extravagant, ambitious, and prone to self-doubt," while Escoffier, four years older, was "self-assured and precise," a brilliant cook who had created a modern kitchen brigade and codified French cuisine. He was a handsome man, "imperturbable, soft-spoken," but so small that he wore boots with heavy, built-up heels. Ritz, on the other hand, was embarrassed that his large feet betrayed his peasant background and wore shoes half a size too small.

Neither man had to use the stairs at the Savoy, since the hotel had six elevators, the largest ever seen in Europe, which D'Oyly Carte called "ascending rooms." There were 400 guestrooms and an unheard-of number of bathrooms—67 all told, many en suite and at no extra charge. (The recently opened Hotel Victoria provided just four for 500 guests.) The Savoy also had electric light that you



STOMPIN' AT THE SAVOY The hotel ca. 1905. Ritz and Escoffier made it the talk of London in the 1890s.

could switch on or off in your room without getting out of bed, also at no extra charge.

Oscar Wilde commented (half-seriously) that he didn't think much of the electric light, which was "everywhere, except where you need it! A harsh and ugly light, enough to ruin the eyes. And not a candle or a lamp to read by." As for amenities such as a washbasin in the room, "Hide the thing! I prefer to ring for water when I need it." (Alas, just a few years later, to Ritz's mortification, the Savoy was to provide the setting for many accusations that lead to Wilde's tragic downfall in 1895.)

Closely observing Ritz and Escoffier as they ran the business was D'Oyly

Carte's wife, Helen, a former actress who was a manager at the hotel. Mr. Barr paints her as a relentless, watchful figure, "a nervous, meticulous person, and fiercely protective of her husband." She disliked Ritz, especially the way he and Escoffier spent her husband's money, and she was to play a pivotal role in uncovering improprieties that led to their abrupt dismissal ten years later. (The two had long accepted kickbacks from suppliers and contractors, and in 1897-98 they secretly entertained—at D'Oyly Carte's expense—prospective investors in the Carlton, a rival hotel venture.)

rant became enormously popular, a gathering place open to all who could afford it: aristocrats, the nouveau riche, royalty, Jewish bankers and fur traders (Jews weren't freely accepted in society at the time), and stars of the theater and opera. Formal evening dress was de rigueur in the dining room and women were admitted—except those of "doubtful reputation and uncertain revenue," who arrived unaccompanied, wearing makeup and large hats. Mr. Barr writes, "An extravagant hat worn in the evening, Ritz had discovered, was a sign of trouble." But Ritz not only gave ladies' banquets, he also successfully campaigned to change the laws against eating out on Sundays. Soon

those formerly grim at-home evenings of "cold joint and gloom" became the most fashionable times of the week to dine at the Savoy.

When the great French actress Sarah Bernhardt visited London she would hold forth in the restaurant, Mr. Barr writes, "fashionable as always, wearing a small live lizard attached to a fine chain that was pinned to her dress. It darted about listlessly on her breast." (She was more interested in champagne than food. When she was 67 she told Escoffier, who was a great friend, the secret of her youthful good

The hotel had 400 rooms, six elevators and an unheard-of number of bathrooms—67 all told.

looks: half a bottle of Moët et Chandon with every meal.)

Élisabeth de Gramont, the French aristocrat, could be seen at her husband the Duc de Clermont-Tonnerre's table smoking cigarette after cigarette. The sight of a woman (a descendant of King Henri IV, no less) doing such a thing in public was so shocking that some diners actually stood up to watch.

Escoffier streamlined his cooking, eliminating the unnecessary, fussy (and often inedible) decoration of his great mentor, Marie-Antoine Carême. But that didn't mean his dishes weren't excessive. His menu for an important dinner, attended by titans of global finance, included a Chinese soup made from imported birds' nests, the braised fin of an American turtle that weighed 120 pounds, and roasted ortolans (songbirds) eaten whole. Mr. Barr has an eye for comic detail, and he writes that for their penultimate dessert the millionaire diners were presented with miniature grape vines and tiny peach, plum and cherry trees, all laden with perfectly ripe fruit to be harvested with a small pair of golden scissors—to be kept as a souvenir.

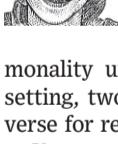
Ritz had opened the hotel's doors to anyone with money wearing the right clothes. The old social rules were broken. Mr. Barr comments, "Indeed, there was an element of decadence in the Savoy's brand of luxury—it was this decadence that made it modern, the sense that pleasure was to be celebrated."

Mr. Barr has done a fine job evoking fin-de-siècle London and the characters of the two odd men who played such a pivotal role in that exhilarating time. Of course, at the very least they should be remembered for getting the English to eat frogs' legs.

Ms. Hodgson is the author of "It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time: My Adventures in Life and Food."

CHILDREN'S BOOKS: MEGHAN COX GURDON

Old Enough to Look Back in Anger



TWO BOYS, two lost fathers, two big mistakes, two unwanted summertime visits with grandparents: These points of commonality unite in theme, if not in setting, two affecting novels in free verse for readers ages 9-12.

Kwame Alexander's "**Rebound**" (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 414 pages, \$16.99) traces a painful time in the life of 12-year-old Charlie Bell. One day Charlie will grow up to be the father of Jordan and Josh, the twin middle-school basketball phenoms from Mr. Alexander's 2015 Newbery Medal-winner, "The Cross-over." In this prequel, though, set in the 1980s, Charlie is just a boy grieving after the death of his own father. Taking solace in superhero comics, Charlie daydreams about wearing a pair of Air Jordans and becoming a sensation on the basketball court.

When he's in a reverie, the pages morph into comic strips, drawn by Dawud Anyabwile, featuring Charlie as a trash-talking champion: "I'd steal the ball / and make you cry. / My game's so criminal, / I'd need an alibi." Happy for a moment, he'll suddenly be sandbagged by grief. "The worst / are / the moments / I forget / that he's gone / and then remember," he says. The shape of free verse, with often only a word or two strung on each line, is strikingly effective at conveying the weight of a boy's strong emotions: Each page

seems as laden with pauses and unspoken thoughts as it is with narrative.

Like Charlie Bell, sent to stay for the summer with his grandparents (*It'll be good for both of us*, Charlie's mother says), 11-year-old Jett finds himself on a plane to his grandmother's house on Canada's eastern shore. In Heather Smith's novel "**Ebb & Flow**" (Kids Can Press, 227 pages, \$16.99), he tells us: "It was

A grieving boy takes solace in comics, a guilty boy does penance for an awful act of betrayal.

my mother's idea. / *Jett, what you need is a change of scenery.* / I think she needed a change of scenery, too. / One without me."

Jett has had a "rotten bad year," but it takes time for him to reveal what awful thing he did—the betrayal of an innocent that has left him hating himself—and what his absent father has to do with it. Jett's grandmother, like Charlie Bell's grandparents, is both demanding and empathetic: She insists that Jett join her on visits to a smelly, toothless old woman; she makes him work around the house; and she takes him hunting on the beach for beautiful bits of detritus. *What was once a*

piece / of broken glass / is now something better— / it's a gem, she tells Jett. *Even after all that battering?* he asks. His grandmother smiles. *Because of all that battering*, she says.

Yet another unhappy young boy gets sent to stay with relatives for the summer in "**Tom's Midnight Garden**" (Greenwillow, 96 pages, \$22.99), an illustrated adaptation of

Philippa Pearce's 1958 novel of the same name. Young Tom feels like a prisoner with his Uncle Alan and Aunt Gwen: There are bars on the windows of his bedroom, and he isn't allowed outside for fear that he may have contracted measles from his brother, who is sick at home. In graphic-novel panels drawn by the French illustrator Edith, we see Tom lying awake in the dark as a grandfather clock in the downstairs hall strikes 11, then 12, and then—13! Against orders, Tom creeps down to check the time. "I saw that moon-

beams were shining through the window of the back door," he writes to his brother.

As Tom opens the door—and as the young reader turns the page—there's the shock of sunlight: Instead of a paved alley, Tom sees a wonderful garden, with trees and hedges and flowering bushes. He meets a girl named Hatty, who wears Victo-



rian clothes and seems to be the only person in the garden able to see him (see above). Soon Tom has embarked on a secret double life, confined by day and free at night, even as he begins to realize that time doesn't work in the midnight garden the way it normally does. Imbued with deep feeling, this dramatic, poignant, joyful story invites readers ages 8-12 to imagine the impossible.

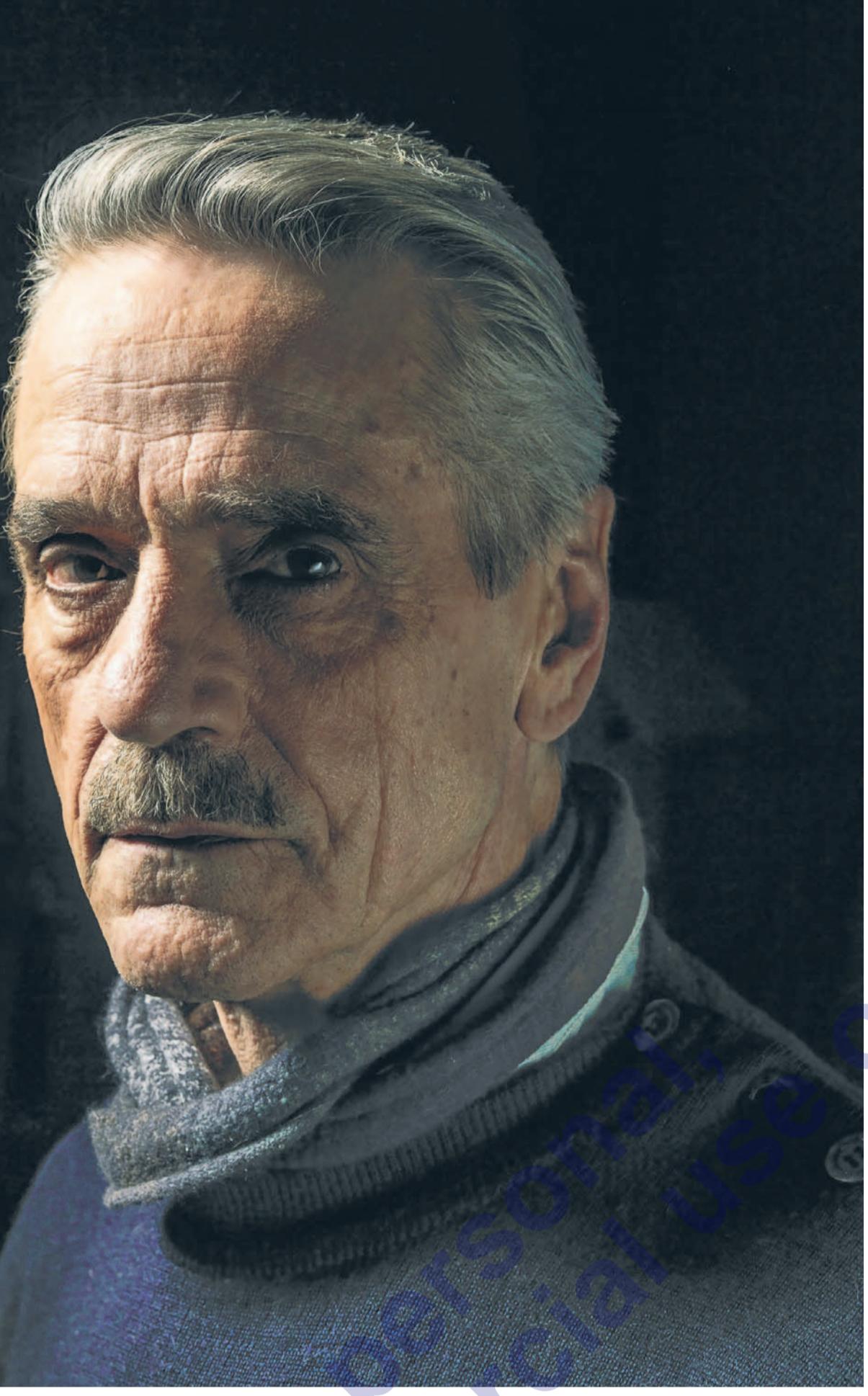
Time doesn't work the way it normally does during moments of stress and crisis, either, but slows down so much that a few seconds seem to

take an hour. The fraught hiatus between the thwack of a bat and a baseball hurtling into the outfield takes the entirety of a picture book in David Wiesner's "**I Got It!**" (Clarion, 32 pages, \$17.99). In that brief span of time, a boy of 9 or 10 stakes the fateful claim: "I got it!" Running, reaching, leaning for the ball, he envisions disaster: He's going to trip on a root, crash to the ground, embarrass himself. Then, with a turn of Wiesner's surrealism, in the candy-colored illustrations the proportions go all wonky: The root becomes a tree, the ball is huge, the outfielder tiny. Then the boy is competing for the ball with a throng of giants, their monstrous mitts extended. Ah—does he get it?

The narrator of Ricardo Cortés's picture book "**Sea Creatures From the Sky**" (Black Sheep, 48 pages, \$16.95) is comfortable with giants—his undersea world is full of them—but he's not calm about monsters. How could he be, after finding himself pulled out of the ocean by them, poked and prodded and having a tag stuck to his dorsal fin? And no one will believe him!

"Everyone I told, from the whale to anchovies, scoffed at the tale as a 'complete impossibility,'" the poor fellow explains. "In ships they steered? Faces with beards? Heads with two ears? It was all just too weird." Sumptuous paintings and an engaging conceit make this a terrific read-aloud choice for children ages 2-7.

REVIEW



PEROU FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; GROOMING BY TAHIRA

WEEKEND CONFIDENTIAL: ALEXANDRA WOLFE

Jeremy Irons | The actor's latest role: reading the challenging poems of T.S. Eliot**NEARLY A DECADE** ago, actor Jeremy Irons was reading "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S.

Eliot at an event at London's British Library, and to his surprise, the poet's widow, Valerie, who was then in her 80s, showed up. After the performance, he spoke to her, and she told him, in words he happily recalls today, "I think you are today's voice for Eliot."

Mr. Irons thinks that she may have been reacting to his straightforward approach to the reading. "I read what came to me off the page, without much intellectual study," he says. Later, when getting ready to perform other poems by Eliot, he experimented with

reading the lines with a lot of personality and acting, and then tried reading them with "nothing," just straight off the page. He stuck with the latter. "I just try to become a voice," he says.

Across his long film and television career, the 69-year-old actor is especially known for portraying historical or literary figures, such as Claus von Bülow in the 1990 film "Reversal of Fortune," for which he won an Academy Award, Humbert Humbert in "Lolita" (1997), and Pope Alexander VI in the Showtime series "The Borgias" (2011-2013).

Before the reading in London years ago, Mr. Irons hadn't read

much of Eliot's poetry. Now he has read all of Eliot's major works, from "The Hollow Men" to "The Waste Land." Next month, his audiobook recording "The Poems of T.S. Eliot" will be released, 75 years after the publication of Eliot's "Four Quartets."

That set of four poems, about the nature of time and the cycle of life, "is for me the apogee of his work," Mr. Irons says. They reflect the struggle to get to "the still point of the turning world," free from living in the past or the future. As Eliot writes, "The inner freedom from the practical desire, / The release from action and suffering, release from the inner /

And the outer compulsion, yet surrounded / By a grace of sense..."

Mr. Irons says that he's tried to get to his own still point by meditating occasionally, but he jokes that he more effectively gets there by smoking a cigarette on his own. "This isn't getting as deep as I think Eliot is trying to get, but what I do is I smoke and I get out of noisy places and noisy dinners and I stand on the sidewalk or on the terrace," he says. "I can't bear the constant prattle of life."

Mr. Irons, who grew up on the Isle of Wight in England, trained as an actor at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. One of his first major parts was in the 1981 television se-

ries "Brideshead Revisited," based on the book by Evelyn Waugh. Since then he has acted in many other films and television shows inspired by books, such as the 2015 dystopian drama "High-Rise," based on a J.G. Ballard novel. "I think it's very rare that you get a film that's better than a book, but you can find some that are almost as good," Mr. Irons says.

When it comes to doing historical re-enactments, he thinks the characters and plot must reflect "the attitudes and understanding of life that they had at the time," he says. He thought it was important that "The Borgias" reflected the nature of his character,

Pope Alexander VI, who is notorious for his schemes to use the papacy to expand the power of his

Borgia line, as well as for his many mistresses.

"We can't gloss stuff with our modern sensibilities, and we're so sensitive about everything," he says, adding that he thinks political correctness has seeped too far into modern culture. "One has to be brave about that," he says. "It's difficult because there's a politically correct box waiting to break anybody."

His new audiobook compiles readings of Eliot's poetry that he originally did for BBC Radio. He thinks of poems and modern art the same way: Both are best understood emotionally rather than intellectually. "I know a lot of modern art goes over my head because I look at it and go, 'It doesn't mean anything to me.' But sometimes you look at it and you're just sort of gobsmacked."

He applies a similar philosophy to acting as to reading poetry. He tries to be careful not to overact. He also aims to listen and react to the other actors in a scene. "I've always thought acting was more about listening than talking," he says. He's now starring in the London production of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night," which will travel to the Brooklyn Academy of Music in May and then the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles in June.

In his down time, he and his wife, Sinéad Cusack, spend time at their castle in Ireland. Built in the 15th century and recently restored, it looks like it could be the setting for one of his period pieces. "I like walking, and I think Ireland suits my nature best of all and Los Angeles least of all," he says. He spends as little time in L.A. as possible. "My instinct is not to live over the shop," he says.

If he could pick a different era to live in, which would it be? "I think 1900 to 1912 was an extraordinary time," he says, "and I think between the wars was a mad time and also quite fun to be around." But he says that he's satisfied enough with the present. "I'm happy to be healthy and alive when I am."

MOVING TARGETS: JOE QUEENAN



A Wonderful Future for TV of the Past

TWENTY-ONE YEARS after it went off the air, the hit sitcom "Roseanne" is back with much of the original cast returning. This comes on the heels of such high-profile reboots as "Twin Peaks," "Dynasty," "Will and Grace" and "The X-Files." Which followed the reboot of "Dallas." And "Battlestar Galactica." And "Ironside." And...well, you get the idea.

Interestingly enough, before these remakes, some reanimated series spawned movies, not always with enormous success. The fact that this has not deterred Hollywood seems to suggest that television is desperate for new streaming material, preferably programs the public is already familiar with.

According to one published report, a total of 52 remakes are now in some stage of development. To paraphrase Gen. Douglas MacArthur, "Old soldiers never die. Nor do ancient sitcoms."

I'm very excited about all of

this. I see potential reboots in four categories, all rife with possibilities. The first—including "Baywatch," "Saved by the Bell," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Get Smart," "Gilligan's Island," and "The Brady Bunch"—could all return pretty much as they were when they originally aired. With enough hair-dye and prosthetics, they could even include members of the original casts.

Other programs might need a contemporary makeover. "I Dream of Gene" would be a nice way to mix up gender roles, or maybe it could be "I Dream of Both Gene and Jeannie." "Ms. Ed" would star a brash talking mare. The late-'70s hit "Taxi" would be more in step with the times as "Uber." I'm also hoping that the TV producers will fuse similarly named series—how about "The Partridge & Addams Families" or


**Let's bring back
'Baywatch'—
with hair-dye
and prosthetics.**

"The Happy Days of Our Lives." And maybe eight isn't enough.

A third category of revivals would take advantage of today's high-tech computer wizardry. Take "The Lawrence Welk Show."

Tweaked versions of old episodes are still grabbing millions of viewers a week on public television. So why not use CGI to do what the original show never could: create the illusion that the accordion-packing North Dakotan schmalzmeister is actually a living, breathing human being?

Finally, there are all those dreadful shows that no one would think of reviving—but someone should. "My Mother the Car," which many consider the worst TV series ever, starred Dick Van Dyke's less talented brother Jerry as a man whose dead mother is reincarnated as a censorious talking car. This series never

realized its great potential. Why not bring mom back as a talking, politically correct Prius, mercilessly badgering her environmentally insensitive son?

When the last limp TV show has been put on its zombielike feet, I would suggest one final potential gold mine. It's based on the fact that some revivals come and go so fast that almost no one remembers. Reborn TV versions of "Knight Rider," "Charlie's Angels" and "Bionic Woman" all strutted and fretted their single season on the stage and then were seen no more. Have we already seen a revival of "Remington Steele"?

This sort of question could spawn a Chuck Barris-style game show in which contestants compete for fabulous prizes. What has been remade? Starring whom? Winners get to appear in an episode of "Dr. Quinn, Rebooted Medicine Woman." Losers get to appear in two episodes.

REVIEW

 EXHIBIT

Urban Flight

► Apollo was one of the first patients of New York City's Wild Bird Fund, a rehabilitation center that works with sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.



Pigeons are pervasive in New York City, but how much do urban dwellers really know about them? "The New York Pigeon," by photographer Andrew Garn, features shots so detailed that they make the often maligned bird look almost exotic. Mr. Garn photographed the creatures at rest, in motion and at home in their

coops, but he also chronicles their history and shares stories about rescued and rehabilitated birds. He can't imagine his city without them. "You may as well visualize the Everglades without alligators, or the Antarctic without penguins," he writes. "Pigeons are NYC's nature."

—Alexandra Wolfe

PLAYLIST: DAYMOND JOHN



Music to Stitch By

A 'Shark Tank' star made hats to the thump of a Keni Burke anthem

Daymond John, 48, is the founder and CEO of the FUBU apparel company and an investor on TV's "Shark Tank." He is the author of "Rise and Grind" (Currency). He spoke with Marc Myers.

I heard the music before I saw the car. In 1982, when I was 13, I was shopping with my mother in the Hollis section of New York's borough of Queens. A large car rolled by with young kids inside blasting Keni Burke's "RISIN' TO THE TOP."

The new song was coming out of nearly all the big cars driven by kids then. Music was our Twitter. What you cranked up sent a social message and said everything about what you wanted.

As a kid, I was just trying to go to school and stay out of trouble. I knew I had two choices: Become a crack dealer and wind up dead or in jail, or try to work my skills—at the time, break-dancing, record-scratching and sewing. I was

A reminder that success was possible.



KENI BURKE'S 1982 album, 'Changes.'

scared of getting beat up or dying, and I didn't want to wind up living in a cage in prison. Anything else was better.

I worked hard throughout the '80s. In 1989, I started making knit hats tied off on top with fishing line. I sold them for half the price they were selling for at stores and began making good money.

My mom had taught me how to operate her sewing machine, and she let me launch my clothing company, FUBU, in her house.

I frequently listened to "Risin' to the Top" for the same reason everyone else did—to feel

that success was possible. I love the synthesizer that opens the song. It's sparkly and sounds like you're in outer space.

Then Keni Burke's thick, rubbery bass line kicks in. It feels like it's pushing you forward. The lyrics are about rising to the top, one notch at a time. I like that the song doesn't say where the top is or that the climbing ever stops:

"Keep on believing / All the dreams inside of you / And don't stop achieving / Let some love shine on through."

Now, when I hear "Risin' to the Top," images of my childhood flash through my head, including the funerals of friends I had to attend. The song also makes me grateful I knew how to sew.

ASK ARIELY: DAN ARIELY



Pick Your Own Tax Rate

Hi, Dan.

With the recent changes in the tax code, Americans have been debating what rate high earners should pay. Here's a thought experiment: How about offering those in the highest bracket a choice of rates—say, 37%, 40%, 45% even 50%. They could choose to pay whatever rate they wanted—but they would have to make their choice public. So politicians, celebrities and CEOs who talk about the need for fair taxes would have to walk the talk—and pay up. This altruistic option might even make them feel good. —Pete

I like this creative approach. I would suggest adding some social-media coordination to the plan by obliging people to say, well before taxes are due, how much they plan to pay. I suspect that many of the super-rich wouldn't mind paying more taxes as long as their super-rich friends paid the same amount (or more). After all, if everyone were to pay more, relative wealth would remain the same.

And if a few altruistic billionaires chose high rates, as they probably would, their peers might feel social pressure to follow suit. The more news coverage, the more likely this outcome. Though Congress is unlikely to try out this approach anytime soon, communities could experiment by trying some version of it with property taxes.

Dan,

From time to time I treat a friend or my significant other to dinner, thanks to your advice that the psychological pain of spending \$80 is less than the pain of each of us spending \$40. My question is: When should I tell my friend it's my treat? When I invite them? When the bill comes? What would maximize my guest's enjoyment? —Colin

You are absolutely right about the pain of paying. If your goal is to maximize your dinner partner's enjoyment, I would let them know it's your treat as



soon as you make the invitation. That way, your guest won't even experience the anticipated pain of paying for anything. It's true that your guest, knowing dinner is on you, might order another dessert or glass of wine, but that's a small price to pay.

Dear Dan,

I recently started working at a company that requires employees to wear suits, and I find them uncomfortable. Can you help me understand the logic for wearing them? —Joseph

In my mind, suits represent everything wrong with modern society. They're basically an expensive school uniform. The lack of choice does make suit purchases easier, and since people wearing suits look more or less the same, the clothing works as a kind of leveler in looks, ensuring that no one looks more interesting or exciting.

But suits kill sartorial creativity and individuality, and as you say, they're uncomfortable. They are a prime example of our tendency to pick the unpleasant, uncreative option as long as it's easy and makes us all look identical. My advice to you: Rebel, and if you succeed, most of your co-workers will thank you.

Have a dilemma for Dan?
Email AskAriely @wsj.com



▲ Jana—seen exercising its wings—was rescued after showing signs of torticollis (twisting of the neck), likely caused by lead poisoning.

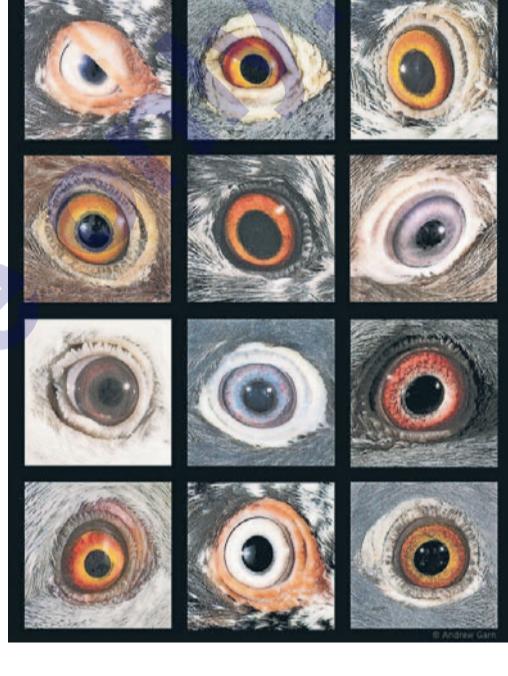


◀ Hatchlings are covered in a fine yellow protective down. This bird is 10 days old.

► Mr. Garn was in search of an overlooked, undiscovered subject before settling on pigeons. Now, he writes, 'pigeons are my muses.' This bird is named Mr. Brown.



▼ The birds have a wide range of eye coloration.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW GARN

REVIEW



A TRIP to North Africa inspired 'Women of Algiers in Their Apartment' (1833).

inside the museum," says Sébastien Allard, director of the paintings department at the Louvre and co-curator of the show. "Sardanapalus" will stay in its usual place in the Louvre; "Liberty Leading the People" won't make it to New York either.

In 1832, Delacroix went to Morocco as part of a diplomatic delegation, a trip that also took him to southern Spain and Algeria. His impressions, captured in several sketchbooks, fueled the rest of his career, leading to works like "Women of Algiers in Their Apartment" (1833-34), showing three lounging women and a servant. The picture, with its air of sensuality and mystery, echoes through later works by Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Pablo Picasso. "Women of Algiers" will travel to New York.

Delacroix may have been almost as serious about socializing as painting. He "was out almost every night," says Michele Hannoosh, a professor of French at the University of Michigan and editor of the definitive version of Delacroix's journal, which appeared in 2009 and is cited by Louvre and Met curators as a key source for the new show. The journal, which runs more than 2,000 pages

in the original French, ranges from mundane jottings to deep reflections.

During Europe's revolution-filled year of 1848, Delacroix did not revisit the subject matter of "Liberty" but instead turned to still lifes like "Basket of Flowers." Until recently, a scrim-like layer of old varnish and layers of overpaint from a restoration had dimmed its beauty. The Met's paintings conservation department recently treated the picture, and now "the colors are much brighter," says Mr. Allard. The results will be shown in public for the first time in Paris before returning to the Met.

The art market is also jumping on the Delacroix bandwagon. In Paris last week, a sketchbook from his Moroccan trip sold for about \$367,000, nearly six times the high esti-

mate for the piece. In May, Christie's New York will include a Delacroix, "Tiger with Tortoise," alongside works by Picasso and Matisse as it auctions the art collection of David Rockefeller and his wife Peggy in a multipart sale. "Tiger," painted the year before Delacroix's death, has a presale estimate of \$5 million to \$7 million—less than works on offer that day by artists that he influenced but close to his own record sale at auction of \$7.7 million in 1998.

MUSÉE DU LOUVRE, PARIS © RMN-GRAND PALAIS/FRANCK RAUX

ICONS

Delacroix in Every Size

A rare retrospective of vast canvases—and works less known but just as influential

BY J.S. MARCUS

EUGÈNE DELACROIX created some of the best-known artworks of the first half of the 19th century, but he painted far more than those celebrated room-size spectacles lining the walls of the Louvre Museum. In Paris, his lesser-known still lifes and religious paintings are now on view, along with the crowd-pleasers, in the first full-blown Delacroix retrospective in more than a half-century. A version will travel to New York later this year.

Featuring nearly 200 works, including 127 paintings, "Delacroix (1798-1863)" comes at a time of growing appreciation of his impact on younger innovators. At the time of Delacroix's death, says Christopher Riopelle of London's National Gallery, the artist "seemed passe," but his emphasis on color and bold brush strokes

"represented a kind of liberation" for later artists. Mr. Riopelle cites overlooked categories of Delacroix paintings, like his large flower paintings and landscapes, as "hugely influential" for figures from postimpressionist Paul Gauguin to modernist master Henri Matisse.

For the Louvre exhibit, curators went to American museums and French churches to find underappreciated Delacroix works. The Paris exhibition opened at the Louvre on Thursday and runs through July 23. The New York version will be on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from Sept. 17 to Jan. 6.

Delacroix's family was tied to the Napoleonic regime—his father was a high government official. But Delacroix's father died when the boy was 7, the family lost its money, and the death of the artist's mother left him an impoverished orphan at 16. Eventually, the young man scored some early artistic successes, and his literary and musical interests led to an active social life among Romantic artists in Paris.

One of those successes was "The Barque of Dante," an 1822 painting showing Virgil, Dante's guide in "The Divine Comedy," leading

the Italian poet on a tour of hell. Delacroix went on to an even greater triumph a few years later with "Massacres of Chios," a scene from the Greek War of Independence. Both works are in the Paris show.

The young artist made no secret of his ambition. "Barque" is 8 feet long, while "Massacres" measures nearly 300 square feet. In 1827, he turned things up a notch with "The Death of Sardanapalus," a lurid, chaotic spectacle, depicting an Assyrian king amid a number of dead or dying women. At a length of 16 feet, it is his largest work of all.

In his early 30s, Delacroix took on the state of French politics. "July 28, 1830: Liberty Leading the People" is set against the backdrop of France's rejection of the Bourbon restoration. The work's bare-breasted, barefoot heroine, bearing a battle-ready French tricolor flag, became a symbol of the French nation, finding her way onto currency and stamps.

Several of these larger paintings will not make the trip across the Atlantic for the New York version of the show. "Delacroix's early works are too big and too fragile to move, even

MASTERPIECE: PLAQUE WITH THE JOURNEY TO EMMAUS AND 'NOLI ME TANGERE' (C. 1115-20)

WITNESSES OF THE RISEN CHRIST

BY E.A. CARMEN JR.

THE GREAT NEW YORK financier and cultural patron J.P. Morgan acquired not only individual works of art but sometimes entire collections. One of the latter, formed in Paris by the designer and decorator Georges Hoentschel (1855-1915), included a superb Spanish late Romanesque ivory relief that came to the Metropolitan Museum in 1917, four years after the financier's death. The carved panel—it shows traces of gilding—was likely once part of a large reliquary featuring several ivory images.

This work's bold figures, with their flowing garments and pronounced movements, posit its making in the religious workshops of León, Spain, an important stop on the Camino de Santiago, the pilgrimage route to Compostela. Its crisply cut imagery and sophisticated mixture of complex Medieval Church understandings make it a masterpiece of this often-neglected period.

The ivory illustrates two separate Easter Day events joined in Mark's Gospel, where he says of the risen Christ: "He appeared first to Mary Magdalene and then after that he appeared in another form unto two of them [pilgrims]; as they were walking into the country."

The depictions are above and below a horizontal lettered inscription

Romanesque carving conveys the Good News of Easter.

reading "D[omi]N[u]S LOQUITUR MARIE" (or "The Lord speaks to Mary"), a caption for the lower register.

The action presented comes from the Gospel of John's *Noli me tangere* episode, when outside of the empty tomb on Easter morning, Mary Magdalene recognizes and grasps for Jesus—who rebuffs her, saying "Touch me not, for I have not yet ascended to the Father." In the story, Mary Magdalene obeys Jesus' request that she go and tell the disciples.

The upper register affords another major Easter appearance, from the Gospel of Luke. The risen Christ,

on the left with a pilgrim's purse, a walking staff and a bottle, approaches two fellow wayfarers. He touches one on the shoulder to gain his attention. Jesus is here in Mark's "different form," and thus unrecognized by

these pilgrims.

But for this mysterious change, they would know him. The two men are walking the seven miles to Emmaus, returning from their Passover in Jerusalem. They stop and express—conveyed here with vivid gestures—both their despair over the Crucifixion and wonderment at news of Jesus' empty tomb. The incognito Christ explains how the ancient Scriptures foretold these events.

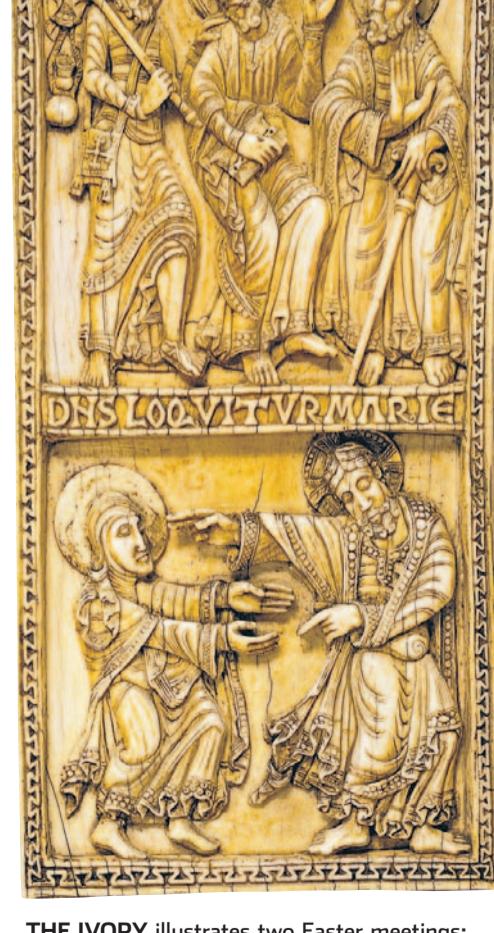
These travelers will invite Jesus for supper in Emmaus; as they recognize Christ in his breaking of the bread (an episode subsequently taken up by artists such as Caravaggio and Rem-

brandt), he vanishes; and they immediately return to Jerusalem to tell the disciples, echoing Mary Magdalene that very morning.

The artist of this ivory describes these events with clarity and an assured command of different Romanesque styles. The plaque shares a widespread Medieval use of bold figural gestures and enlarged hands and eyes, a vocabulary found from the contemporaneous sculpture at Vézelay, France, all the way into the 13th century.

At the same time, it displays a particularly Spanish predilection (inherited from Imperial Roman portraiture and extending to the paintings of Diego Velázquez and Francisco de Zurbarán) for realistic depiction in the extraordinary, detailed attention to beards and clothing.

More broadly the composition of the two scenes underscores their stories' actions. The shapes in the Emmaus trio convey, moving left to right, the narrative's sense of both movement and attention. In the lower panel, Christ's extended right arm holds off



THE IVORY illustrates two Easter meetings:

with benevolent travelers and Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene, while his left hand pulls his garment away from her grasping hands—together, creating almost magnetic fields of attraction and separation.

Virtually unmentioned today are the two pilgrims' identities, known from Luke's gospel as well as Eusebius and other writers of the early Christian era. The older man on the right—his walking staff held like a cane—is Cleopas, Joseph's brother and thus Jesus' uncle. The more energetic central figure has been seen as Jesus' cousin Simeon.

These two were later made Ss. Cleopas and Simeon, and thus they here wear plain nimbi; Christ's nimbus, traditionally marked with a cross—as it is in the companion Mary Magdalene scene—is in this pilgrims' scene a plain halo, in symbolic accord with his changed appearance.

Mary Magdalene's story also informs this relief. According to Jacobus de Voragine's "Golden Legend," a widely read compilation of hagiographies published in the 13th century, her venerated bones came to rest in a reliquary in the Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary Magdalene in Vézelay. Consecrated by Pope Innocent II in 1132—around the date of this church in central France would become one of world's most spiritual spaces, the sacred starting point for the route to Compostela and, therefore, to the León workshops in Spain.

Medieval pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago would identify with this Romanesque ivory's masterly parade of those who first met the risen Christ and then journeyed with the "Good News" of Easter.

Mr. Carmean is an art historian and a canon in the Episcopal Church. He lives in Washington.

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Monet

D13

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THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50

The Good Life...for a Song

If the rising costs of being cosmopolitan have you in a flap, consider these 50 pennywise ways to score affordable luxury—from style steals to décor deals to steep travel discounts (that are almost as disconcerting as talking birds)

[INSIDE]



SKIP THE MARK-UP
For economical elegance, buy bodysuits and tights where ballerinas shop D13



SAVOR THRIFTY VICTUALS
The best delivery systems for spring's freshest produce? These pasta recipes D6



KRAKOW WISE
It's no joke how much budget luxury this crowd-free Polish city delivers D10



TRIM YOUR EXPENSES
Under-\$100 design tricks and tools from decorators, landscape architects and other pros D12



FLOAT FRUGALLY
Dan Neil on the antithesis of a fast Ferrari, a narrow-body houseboat D15

ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLOTTE KNOX

STYLE & FASHION

1

Shop Vicariously

Eight fashion-wise guys on the bargains they proudly scored and (sigh) their most misguided buys



Justin Berkowitz

Fashion Director, Bloomingdale's
Best Bargain I bought this Helmut Lang denim jacket in high school that I still wear all the time. It was \$250 15 years ago, and it's super minimal—an iconic denim jacket.

Stupidest Splurge When the floral-print shirt became a thing, I bought one from **Dries Van Noten** (below). I'm not comfortable in it, and it just sat in my closet.



Archie Lee Coates IV

Co-founder, PlayLab INC.
Best Bargain At an upstate New York Walmart I bought a hooded workwear jacket from Walls. It's super stiff and was only \$40. It has worn well.

Stupidest Splurge I missed out on buying the **gray Adidas Yeezy Powerphase sneakers** when they came out and I had to buy them at 200% at [sneaker reseller] Stadium Goods.



Benjamin Clymer

Founder, Hodinkee
Best Bargain I bought an **Audemars Piguet Royal Oak watch** with the original box and papers for \$8,600. I kept it safe until I sold it six months ago for \$75,000.

Stupidest Splurge I'm color-blind and I bought what I thought was a beautiful blue cashmere Gucci sweater for \$3,700. It ended up being Barney purple.



Eugene Tong

Stylist
Best Bargain I wear my **Uniqlo puffer vest** every day. It looks like a men's tailored vest, not a zip-up. It's a perfect layering piece.

Stupidest Splurge The first time I went to Japan on my own, I bought a crazy burlap bomber jacket with a high rib collar. I never wore it. I learned in Japan you can't be fooled by how cool the staff looks.



Jay Carroll

Co-Founder, Wonder Valley
Best Bargain I bought a blue German work jacket at a Tokyo flea market. I've gotten that jacket embroidered and patched over the years. I just keep adding to it.

Stupidest Splurge Also in Japan, I bought these **Kapital sneakers**—like Nike Pegasus—but with the toe cut out. I've never worn them. I just went overboard with them.



Aaron Levine

Design, Abercrombie & Fitch
Best Bargain A **black Carhartt beanie** is my magic invisible safety blanket. I love the fit, and each one breaks in differently. If it's 65 degrees or less, I'm wearing one.

Stupidest Splurge I don't know what musician I was channeling when I thought I could pull off short-sleeve slim-fit Prada and Marni printed shirts, but I was way wrong.



Salehe Bembury

Sneaker Designer, Versace
Best Bargain I have a \$120 **Supreme Kung Fu jacket** that I wear all the time. It's super versatile, and has a somewhat Japanese aesthetic that I'm attracted to.

Stupidest Splurge I have these Visvim tabi sneakers that were, like, \$1,300. They're dope shoes, but I don't wear them that often. I feel stupid to this day for spending that much.



Todd Selby

Author and Photographer
Best Bargain My **vintage Coogi sweater** was \$10, and I wear it every week in winter. I like color, it goes with everything and I like the connection to Notorious B.I.G.

Stupidest Splurge I bought these Saint Laurent raw denim jeans that are stick thin and so stiff they can stand up. I've tried them on a few times, and it's so painful.



2

RELIVE THE '90s FOR WELL UNDER \$90

Columbiaknit is as synonymous with rugby shirts as Harley-Davidson is with mid-life-crisis vehicles. Since 1921, the Portland, Ore. company has produced hardy, American-made ruggies that transcend their bargain-basement prices (some options are as cheap as \$29.50). Today, with '90s nostalgia roaring back, the brand's preppy, white-collared pullovers seem like a better deal than ever. Columbiaknit offers a boggling 123 different shirt options on its website (the aptly named, usa-wear.com). There you'll find stripes from pin to thick, a rainbow range of solids and even a red-and-white striped number so you and your kids can spend spring playing a real-life round of "Where's Waldo." Rugby, \$69, usa-wear.com



3

Aim Higher Than Flip Flops

Flip-flops belong on the beach. Those barely-hanging-on thongs are too flimsy to be worn in town, unless that town is Key West, Nantucket or Margaritaville. A more substantial, less dangly choice for urbanites come summer: Birkenstock's two-strapped Arizona slide, which has lately re-emerged as a *jolie laide* fave among the fashion crew. The suede version will set you back \$125, but fortunately Birkenstock offers a stylish synthetic version for less than a third of the price. Better still, these rubbery acetate "BirkenCroses" can be hosed down should you choose them over your flip-flops when you take to the sand. Sandals, \$40, birkenstock.com



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THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: STYLE & FASHION

4

Perform a Pas de Dough

Smart shoppers know that authentic ballet gear—from bodysuits to tights—is the thriftiest way to execute a perfect base layer that gives spring looks a lift

BY RORY SATRAN

IN 1985, WHEN Madonna was seeking film stardom in "Desperately Seeking Susan" and touring to promote "Like a Virgin," Andy Warhol wrote a diary entry about a dinner party where "the girls were absolutely all wearing the shortest shirts ever and then the Madonna stockings." That could only have meant one thing: leggings stolen from the dance studio. Just a few years earlier, the former dancer had been supporting herself serving up Dunkin' Donuts and hustling on the club-kid circuit, which is to say that she knew how to create a memorable look on a shoestring. She knew the secret of ballet basics.

Most outfits require strong base layers, and when it comes to finding the best ones, shopping experts get creative. Sure, you can go high-end for your bodysuit, and heaven knows that Azzedine Alaïa makes a gorgeous one, but what if you're not about to drop a grand on something few will focus on? Enter the humble dance shop, where clever women since the Madonna era have joined actual ballerinas in scoring leotards, leggings and wrap tops for everyday use. Pieces from authentic brands like Capezio and Bloch usually cost less than \$50. Highly functional, these stretch-imbued basics were made to grand jeté but can easily handle le subway.

Athleisure's success has shown that women want comfort, and ballet pieces provide the same ease as upscale sweats with more elegance. Mary Helen Bowers, a ballerina and founder of the Ballet Beautiful empire, wears a leotard nearly every day. "It makes it really easy to move from your workout to a power meeting or the office or even a night out," she said. "The pieces transition in a way that a lot of other staples from athleisure do not." Ms. Bowers swears by the classic pairing of a leotard with a pencil skirt or jeans.

Which brings us to a delicate question: Do delicate ballet basics work on women who aren't stick-thin? On a recent visit to the Sansha dance boutique in New York, we were heartened to see women of all ages and sizes rifling through the leotard bins for \$10 finds. Ms. Bowers affirmed that these streamlined pieces are kind to all body types: "One of the things about ballet and ballet wear in general is that it really helps to highlight and embrace women's femininity, so that a curvier fuller body shape looks amazing in a leotard, and I think it's exciting to see women embrace that."

With ballet wear syncing up seamlessly with our wardrobes, dancewear companies are eager to capitalize on the appeal. Gilles Assor, CEO of the Americas for 71-year-old French brand Repetto, said it is aiming to target more non-dancers. Mr. Assor compared ballet's universal appeal to Proust's memory-triggering madeleine, noting that "every time you talk about dance there is something extremely emotional that appears." And that emotion might just be elation at finding the perfect (cheap) leotard.



ON POINTE On New York City Ballet Soloist Unity Phelan (left): Coat, \$1,555, [theory.com](#); Leotard, \$38, Grishko, 917-262-0783; Skirt, \$22, Sansha, 910-371-0101; Gaynor Minden Tights, \$26, [dancer.com](#); Flats, \$750, Chanel, 212-355-5050; Necklace, \$550, [marymacgill.com](#); Bag, \$148, [trade-mark.com](#). On NYCB Corps Dancer Miriam Miller: Coat, \$2,760, Prada, 212-334-8888; Shirt, \$335, [theory.com](#); Leotard, \$21, [capezio.com](#); Leggings, \$88, [kdnewyork.com](#); Sneakers, \$50, [vans.com](#); Hirotaka Earrings, \$650, [barneys.com](#)

Wrap Sweater, \$80, [repetto.com](#)Tights, \$18, [balletbeautiful.com](#)Leotard, \$21, [blochworld.com](#)

5

Get More Collar For Your Dollar

Pro shopping tip: The size of a shirt collar is often a dead giveaway of a blouse's quality, or lack thereof. While fast-fashion button-ups can capably ape the cut of their high-end counterparts, the cheaper versions mess up in a way that's right in (or really, next to) your face: They skimp on the collar. Budget retailers tend to adorn shirts with skinny strips that pucker and look proportionately insubstantial on today's oversize tops. That doesn't mean it's impossible to find a well-designed, ample collar for a reasonable amount of cash. Our current favorite: this cotton COS blouse that combines a generous, pointy spread with a price that suits the impecunious, ticking off all the boxes of shirt acceptability. Shirt, \$115, [cosstores.com](#) —Rebecca Malinsky



6

Buy Organic

Affordable handmade jewelry tends to look like something sold next to goat's-milk yogurt at a crunchy craft fair. Not so with Mary MacGill's pieces, all dreamed up at her upstate New York studio. When she started her business six years ago, she said, you couldn't easily find budget-friendly gold jewelry: "I wanted to create something that was attainable for women who love well-designed jewelry but maybe couldn't afford an 18-carat version." One of her first pieces combined 14-karat gold with freshwater, or "baroque" pearls. The mollusks that produce these lay dozens at a time, making them less rare, and far less dear than their Tahitian siblings. Bonus: Their organic shapes mean each piece is one-of-a-kind. Earrings, \$145, [marymacgill.com](#) —R.M.

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THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: STYLE & FASHION

7

Work for Peanuts

With menswear skewing more utilitarian these days, Carhartt jackets, Dickies pants and other workwear classics are putting in overtime as fashion—without straining anyone's budget



Half Zip Shirt, \$36 to \$40,
bendavis.com



874 Work Pants, \$20,
dickies.com



G.I. Type Heavyweight Mini Alice Pack, \$33, rothco.com



GO INTO LABOR
A showgoer at Pitti Uomo in Florence, Italy, wears a denim Carhartt jacket.

BY JACOB GALLAGHER

AS A TEENAGER in the heart of Illinois farmland, Christopher Justiniano would needle his friends, many of whom toiled on local farms, for wearing their dusty Carhartt pants and work shirts in town. "I would be, like, 'Why are you wearing Carhartt all the time? That's some farmer s**t,'" said Mr. Justiniano. Back then, he saw cheap workwear as too utilitarian to don outside a barn. Today, Mr. Justiniano, 24, a Chicago-based national stylist for personalized shopping startup Trunk Club, has realized he was laboring under a delusion: "I've had this shift: That stuff is practical and I should be wearing it." Even in the city, Mr. Justiniano favors workwear standbys including Dickies pants and Carhartt beanies just like his farmer friends back home.

Fashion, it seems, has experienced a similar epiphany. The look of traditional workwear—though nothing you could accurately call trendy—has made its way onto the runways. Junya Watanabe and Calvin Klein recently showed reflective-taped parkas that could have come straight from a garbage man's closet. And even outside the fashion bubble, savvy city guys are buying up the sort of gear found at your local workwear store: Dickies' trousers, Red Wing boots and Ben Davis shirts. With menswear skewing more utilitarian, these sturdy standards look surprisingly right and are generally wallet-friendly.

Lynn Baucom, 54, an American investor relations consultant in Bulgaria, has been wearing workwear more and more frequently of late. He has yet to come across anything that rivals the quality of his Carhartt gear, and at less than \$50 for a pair of pants, it doesn't overwork his budget. "It's good value and it lasts a long time, too," Mr. Baucom said.

Such humble items offer an escape from the frenetic fashion cycle. "Most people aren't looking for the crazy over-the-top trendy thing," said Adam Levy, the co-owner of Dave's New York, a 55-year-old family-operated denim and workwear store in Manhattan. "They're looking for a staple." His shop initially catered to builders who needed to stock up on reinforced chinos and steel-toed boots, but Mr. Levy estimates that today laypeople constitute about a third of his clientele. The same customers could exercise even more frugality by shopping at fast-fashion chains like H&M, but the \$35 jeans from those labels don't come with tried-and-true, construction-site testing.

Not everyone sees workwear as passably urbane, so consider where you wear it. Brunch? Yes. A boardroom? No, sir. "I have been mistaken on more than a few occasions for [someone] working in the trades," said Mr. Baucom, recalling a business event in Manhattan where a woman asked him, "Are you a farmboy with your farm Carhartt jacket?" Though Mr. Baucom found it amusing enough, he'll have the last laugh when his jacket is still in heavy rotation come 2038.

8

Save Some Time

Like two-martini lunches and suits with obnoxious shoulders, gargantuan gold watches are a relic of the past. Today's timeliest tickers feature more modestly proportioned cases and simplified faces. Watch collectors shell out serious cash for minimalist vintage Rolexes and Omegas, but thanks to a collaboration between New York menswear designer Todd Snyder and Timex, you can strap on a similarly subtle timepiece—and achieve obvious savings. A sporty rotating bezel and a face ringed by neat dashes that glow in the dark meet our standards for style. And the striped nylon strap adds durability far beyond what you'd expect at this pint-sized price. Watch, \$158, toddsnyder.com



9

Collect a Classic

A collectible, mid-90s Helmut Lang jean jacket nearly identical to this striped trucker recently sold for over \$1,000 on clothing resale website Grailed. Good news for anyone appalled by that price: The 32-year-old brand recently decided to re-issue iconic pieces from that era—thoughtfully saving you hundreds of dollars. Back then, Mr. Lang (who left the company in 2005) won over editors with his ground-breaking runway shows, but it was his denim staples that came to be regarded as classics. You'll want to hang on to this two-pocket trucker, a functional spring layer cut from soft Japanese denim. The signature red stripes on the back are just enough to impress any diehard Helmut collector. Jacket, \$395, helmutlang.com



GETTY IMAGES (MAN); F. MARTIN RAMIREZ/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, STYLING BY ANNE CARDENAS (5)

YOUR suit up starts at SAKS

BOGLIOLI

THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: STYLE & FASHION



10

Love Your Handles

That canvas carryall advertising your literary ambitions might be free. But it's also grimly pretentious. For just a few dollars more, you can tote your stuff far less tediously

BY ALICE NEWELL-HANSON

You can, in fact, have too much of a good thing: beige canvas logo'd tote bags, for instance. One morning last week, I extracted such a bag from my closet and discovered three smaller versions scrunched inside it—tote within tote within tote—like an unwelcome family of Russian dolls. Literary magazines, art fairs, gourmet supermarkets, athleisure brands, noodle bars, prestige pharmacies: In 2018, there are few commercial ventures that haven't printed their names across canvas tote bags (which often come "complimentary" with a purchase or subscription). A recent scan of a Manhattan restaurant took in three New Yorker tote bags; one tote from Marfa, Texas; one tote advertising the music streaming service Tidal; and, finally, a tote designed in the style of a Virginia Woolf book cover imprinted with the dubious wordplay "Tote Lighthouse."

While often promotional, the canvas tote does have quasi-noble intentions—to lighten our loads and reduce our use of plastic bags—but the bags' ubiquity has turned them into something of an aesthetic and ecological blight. And they already had shaky environmental credentials: A 2011 study by the U.K. Environment Agency found that cotton tote bags have a surprisingly high carbon footprint. In fact, to offset the resources expended to manufacture and distribute a single cotton tote, you'd have to use it 393 times (for a standard plastic bag, it's just three uses). Our plan: to stop accepting those supposedly "green" cotton totes and find an alternative we will actually want to use more than 393 times. A tote that is indispensably cute.

"We wanted to make bags that were more delightful," said Emily Sugihara, the founder and CEO of Los Angeles and New York-based company Baggu, which has been creating colorful ripstop nylon

totes, which cost \$10, since 2007. Her team designs with city dwellers in mind, she explains, peripatetic people for whom a tote can "often feel like your house for the day," storing everything from gym clothes to office files to groceries. Accordingly, she ensures her bags are lightweight, collapsible, and have straps that sit comfortably on shoulders. They also come in colors other than beige: cornflower-blue gingham, a pink-grapefruit print, sherbet stripes. "It's a low-investment way to have fun with your wardrobe," Ms. Sugihara said, "especially in winter, when you're wearing the same two coats—one black, one camel—and it gets dreary: Buy a red bag!"

Mere vividness isn't the only way to upgrade your tote. Mary Ping of the conceptual clothing brand Slow and Steady Wins the Race specializes in artfully reimagining classic accessories, including the tote, by playing with scale and unexpected materials. Inspired by the bags of

her childhood—the vinyl Harrods tote in "that green" and a "really vintage old Barnes and Noble tote by Tibor Kalman"—Ms. Ping has created color-blocked versions that resemble Josef Albers paintings, ones modeled after grocery bags but cut from gray sweatshirt-jersey, and winking riffs on the classic preppy boat bag. "I think there's still definitely an evolution for the tote," she said.

Ms. Ping's criteria for a smartly designed tote include: easily accessible pockets and a bright lining. "If it's black, you have to dig and use your phone light!" And besides, as Ms. Sugihara said, "Color is delightful, it brings joy." It's hard to say the same of the graying New York Review of Books bag you've been carrying all winter.

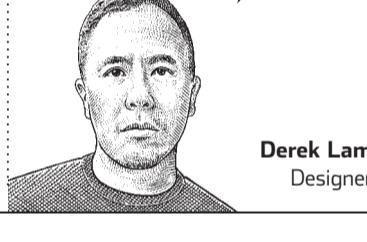
ANTITOTES Above, from left: Mesh Tote, \$41, walkerbags.com; Baggu Tote, \$10, alwaysfits.com; Iridescent Tote, \$35, skinnydiplondon.com; Net Tote, \$89, clarev.com; Pleated Tote, \$49, cosstores.com; Gingham Tote, \$98, trade-mark.com

11
LET THE KIDS DON FAUNA

For competitive children and the type-A parents who raised them, slumber parties have a not-so-secret agenda: to show off impressively charming sleepwear. But all that Keeping Up with the Miniature Joneses can get pricey. Solution: these low-cost, big-impact cat and bunny "sleep" masks, also optimal for summer camp. They pop neatly into the well-outfitted child's backpack (or tiny Goyard trunk, for more pedigreed sorts). The masks can be personalized, but perhaps a monogrammed "C" is more subtle than "HRH Princess Charlotte of Cambridge." Eye Masks, \$16 each, petite-plume.com —Haley Velasco

MY UNAPOLOGETIC SPLURGE

"I wear [\$50] white supima cotton T-shirts from Save Khaki every day. I buy them by the dozen every six months because I just live in them! They come already washed and soft so you don't have to wait to break in the cotton."

Derek Lam
Designer

12

Snag Some French-Girl Beauty Booty

When in-the-know beauty devotees travel to France, they always leave space in their suitcases for excellent Gallic pharmacy finds. If you're stuck stateside, these revered products—just a prudent click away—are a relatively thrifty way to access savoir faire.



1. Renowned for its gentle formula, Bioderma cleansing water is one of the few products makeup artists can agree on. Créaline H2O, from \$16, jet.com

2. Medicinal-mint brand Ricqles (over 180 years old) is hard to track down, but its refreshing mouth spray is worth the hunt. Spray, about \$7, soin-et-nature.com

3. This beachy, multiuse amber-scented oil by Nuxe is a French toiletry staple. Huile Prodigieuse oil, \$29, jet.com

4. Klorane's best-in-class dry shampoo has a light fragrance and keeps your tousled Bardot locks fresh for days after a blowout. Dry Shampoo with Oat Milk, \$20, kloraneusa.com

5. This no-fuss Embryolisse moisturizer is Jane Birkin's fa-

vorite, but don't take her word for it: Give the simple cream a try yourself. Lait Crème Concentré, \$28, net-a-porter.com

6. A new La Roche-Posay skin cream we recently scored at a Paris drugstore, this antiaging formula contains hyaluronic acid. Hyalu B5 Cream, \$43, caretobeauty.com —Lauren Ingram

Honestly, I didn't even know secondhand feathers were a thing.

Sure, you can find great stuff at Goodwill.



13

Join the Dane Gang

To shake your wardrobe out of its winter torpor, consider the definitively fun label Ganni, currently our favorite one-step-up-from-Zara brand. With its colorful, quirky dresses and separates, the Copenhagen-based Ganni combines the thoughtful design of a ready-to-wear line with prices that, while not outright cheap, never outrage: Think \$100-\$500. Each of the brand's plentiful offerings brings an element of the unexpected to an outfit, whether it is a cornflower-blue shoulder bag printed with little fruits, a pair of slouchy bubble gum trousers or a zip-up turtleneck jacket with sheer sleeve details and flounced cuffs. Dress, \$280, farfetch.com —Lane Florsheim



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EATING & DRINKING

14

Noodle Around With Spring Produce

Vibrant green vegetables are starting their stride down the seasonal runway; tossed with a tangle of pasta, they stretch further to make sumptuous meals. These four fresh recipes from chefs around the country will easily feed a crowd

BY ELEANORE PARK

Arugula Pesto Penne

This flexible pesto recipe calls for arugula but will work with most any leafy spring green.

TOTAL TIME: 40 minutes**SERVES:** 6

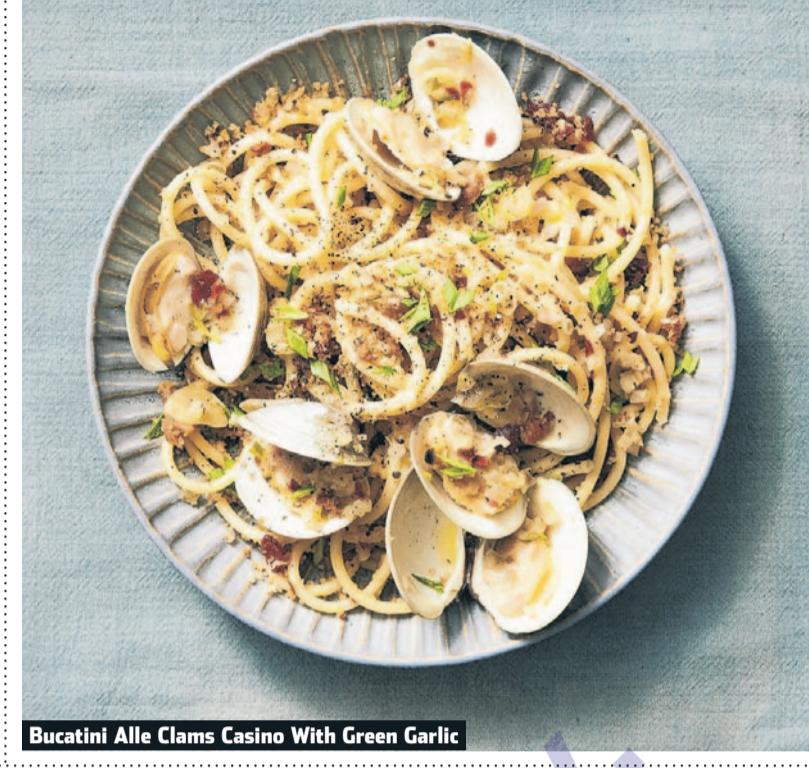
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Separately, toast $\frac{1}{4}$ cup pine nuts and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Marcona almonds until golden brown, 8-12 minutes. Cool slightly, then roughly chop. // In a food processor or blender, combine 2½ cups loosely packed arugula and 5 cups loosely packed basil, and pulse a few times. Add chopped nuts, 2 teaspoons kosher salt, 3 large garlic cloves, grated, 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano. Process on medium-low speed and slowly stream in 9 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil until a chunky paste forms.

Season with more salt to taste. // Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add 1 pound rigatoni, penne rigate or other ridged pasta and cook according to package instructions until al dente. Reserve 1 cup pasta water and set aside. Drain pasta. // In a large skillet with high walls, melt 3 tablespoons butter over medium-high heat. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup reserved pasta water and 1 cup pesto, and stir to combine. (Save remaining pesto for another use.) Add cooked pasta and toss to coat well. Add a couple more tablespoons of reserved pasta water and toss until sauce is glossy and clings to pasta. To serve, divide among bowls and sprinkle with more Parmigiano-Reggiano to finish.

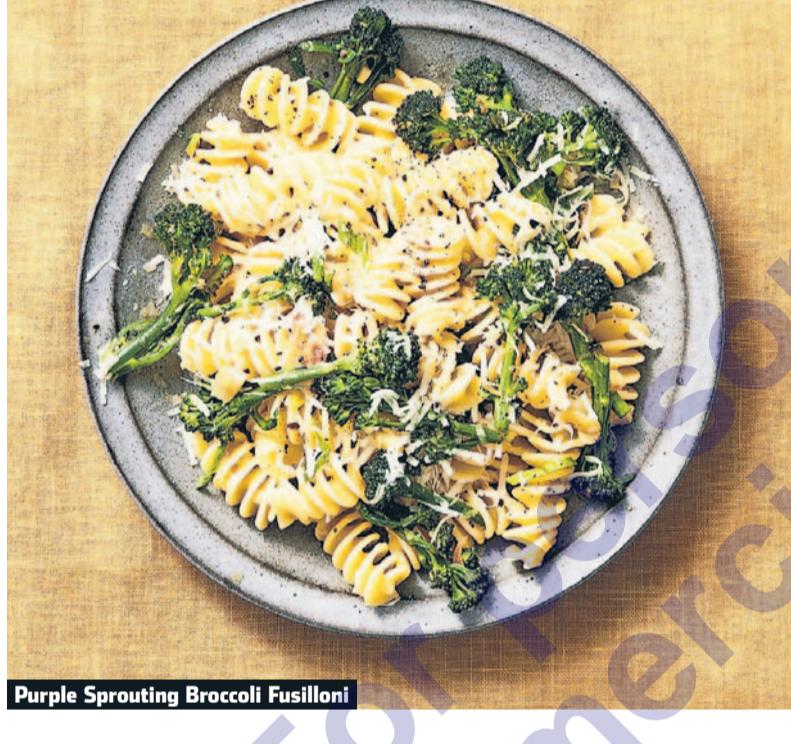
—Adapted from Courtney Storer of Jon & Vinny's, Los Angeles



Arugula Pesto Penne



Bucatini Alle Clams Casino With Green Garlic



Purple Sprouting Broccoli Fusilli



Asparagus Spaghetti With Meyer Lemon and Calabrian Chile

Purple Sprouting Broccoli Fusilli

This recipe takes advantage of the short couple months that beautiful purple sprouting broccoli is available. If you miss it, broccolini will do nicely.

TOTAL TIME: 15 minutes**SERVES:** 4-6

Thinly slice white parts of 5 green garlic stalks and cut green parts into $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch slices. Cut stalks of 2 bunches (about 1 pound) purple sprouting broccoli or broccolini on the bias into 2-inch pieces, keeping flowers and florets intact. Set aside.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add 1 pound fusilli or fusilli and cook according to package instructions until al dente. Reserve 1 cup pasta water and set aside. Drain pasta. // In a large skillet with high walls, heat $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil over medium heat. Add 4 oil-packed anchovy fillets and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon red chile flakes, and cook, stirring often, until anchovies begin to dissolve, 2-3 minutes.

Add sliced green garlic and a pinch of sea salt, and cook until garlic becomes fragrant,

about 1 minute. Add sliced broccoli and season with salt. Increase heat to medium-high and add 1 cup dry white wine, stirring to combine. Cook until wine has reduced by about half, 5-7 minutes. Dot 5 tablespoons softened butter around skillet. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup reserved pasta water, stirring and swirling pan to combine and emulsify sauce. Season with salt to taste. // Add pasta, tossing to combine. If sauce seems too tight, add more pasta water, a tablespoon at a time, until sauce coats pasta. Squeeze juice of half a lemon over pasta and toss to combine. To serve, divide pasta among bowls and grate Parmigiano-Reggiano over top. Sprinkle on more red chile flakes, if desired.

—Adapted from Sarah Minnick of Lovely's Fifty Fifty, Portland, Ore.

Bucatini Alle Clams Casino With Green Garlic

In all its bacon-and-bread-crumb glory, this comforting dish with clams is a spring dish fit to face down any lingering winter chill.

TOTAL TIME: 35 minutes

SERVES: 6-8

Make anchovy-bacon bread crumbs: In a large skillet, cook 8 ounces bacon, finely diced, over medium heat, stirring, until fat has rendered and bacon is browned and crisp, about 7 minutes. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup extra-virgin olive oil, 2 garlic cloves, diced, and 3 oil-packed anchovies, finely minced, and cook, stirring often, until anchovies dissolve,

Toothsome in-season asparagus—what luxury. Don't waste it.

taking care not to brown garlic, about 2 minutes. Add 2 cups panko bread crumbs, and cook, stirring, until lightly toasted, 2-3 minutes. Add 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice and cook 2 minutes more. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate. Season lightly with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Bread crumbs will keep three days

in an airtight container in the refrigerator. // Clean 2 pounds (about 24) littleneck clams.

Thinly slice pale-green and white parts of 5 green garlic stalks. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. In a large Dutch oven, melt $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (1 stick) butter with 6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil over medium-high heat. Add 3 large shallots, minced, green garlic (reserving a few pieces for garnish) and a pinch of red pepper flakes.

Cook, stirring often, until shallots have softened, about 6 minutes.

Add 1 cup dry white wine and clams, cover, and cook until clams begin to open. Once

clams have opened uncover

and continue to cook, stirring, until wine and clam liquid has reduced by about half, about 7 minutes. Discard any clams that do not open. // Mean-

while, cook 1 pound bucatini according to package instructions. Reserve 1 cup pasta water and set aside. Drain pasta.

Add pasta and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup reserved pasta water to clams, tossing until sauce is glossy. Add more butter, a tablespoon

a time, for a creamier pasta.

To serve, divide pasta among serving bowls and liberally sprinkle anchovy-bacon breadcrumbs over top.

Garnish with remaining green garlic and serve with lemon wedges.

—Adapted from Benjamin Suke of Oberlin, Providence, R.I.

Asparagus Spaghetti With Meyer Lemon and Calabrian Chile

Toothsome in-season asparagus—what luxury. Don't waste it. Here the stalks are shaved and cooked just a little, to preserve bite and flavor.

TOTAL TIME: 20 minutes**SERVES:** 6-8

Use a mandoline or vegetable peeler to shave 1 pound trimmed asparagus into thin ribbons. Cover with a damp paper towel. // Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Add 1 pound spaghetti and cook according to package instructions until al dente. // In a large skillet, heat 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil over medium heat until shimmering. Add 1 tablespoon

coarsely ground dried Ca-

labrian chiles or red chile flakes, 2 teaspoons fennel pollen or finely ground toasted fennel seed, and zest of 2 Meyer lemons.

Cook, stirring, until fragrant and chile flakes begin to fizz, about 1 minute. Add 1 cup pasta water to halt cooking and remove from heat. Use tongs to transfer spaghetti directly to skillet. (Reserve pasta water in pot). Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (1 stick) softened butter and cook, tossing, until sauce begins to cling to noodles. Add asparagus and season with kosher salt. Continue to cook until asparagus softens slightly, 2-3 minutes more.

Add juice of 2 Meyer lemons and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup reserved pasta water. Cook, tossing frequently, until sauce is glossy and has reduced slightly, about 2 minutes. (Add another splash of pasta water if sauce seems tight.) Season with salt to taste. // To serve, transfer pasta to a platter or divide among bowls. Grate Parmigiano-Reggiano over top.

—Adapted from Nick Curtola of the Four Horsemen, Brooklyn, N.Y.

15

GIVE IT A GOOD GLUG

Dodge the bill at the steakhouse and serve premium cuts at home—properly. Rich, winey Blast Steak Sauce from Michigan-based Blis Gourmet delivers complex flavor, as well it should after aging in 21-year-old oak barrels that previously held bourbon, maple syrup, beer and hot sauce. Warming allspice and clove, plus four types of pepper, confirm the cozy feeling that you're getting the full-on four-star treatment. \$8, blisgourmet.com —Gabriella Gershenson



16

Carry The Day

Sure, you could pick up a store-bought something to take to the party, but a homemade dish or dessert holds far greater cachet, usually at a fraction of the cost. Now you can transport your creations across town in style, without any accidents or spills, thanks to the Aplat culinary tote, made with sharing in mind. This sturdy, soft denim bag has an ingenious design that keeps round or square platters, pie tins or casserole dishes upright, and your culinary cred intact. \$62, aplatsf.com —Priya Krishna



THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: EATING & DRINKING



17

Strike Gold on the Bottom Shelf

Not serious enough, they say. Undistinguished. Cheap. **Lettie Teague** says live a little. Buying wine should be about pleasure, not penury. Her budget-wine hall of fame features bottles that are easy to love—and to buy



CERTAIN WINES

have reputations tarnished by the connotation of "cheap." They're usually the lowest-priced offerings on a restaurant wine list and shelved near the floor in a wine store. Often described by unpromising adjectives like "affordable," "drinkable" or simply "fun," they include wines such as Beaujolais, Chianti, Pinot Grigio, Chilean Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadet. And their reputation for cheapness knows no borders. Just last week, I served a French dinner guest Muscadet and was informed, "That's a wine we drink in bistro for 3 euros."

While plenty of Pinot Grigios and Chiantis deserve scorn, there are also exceptions that warrant praise. I set out to find these humble gems—the wines that are well made as well as drinkable and, yes, "affordable." After tasting my way through a few disappointments, I found 10 budget-friendly bottles that were actually quite good.

1. CHILEAN SAUVIGNON BLANC

2017 Casa del Bosque Sauvignon Blanc Reserva Valle de Casablanca

Chile, \$12

While Sauvignon Blanc from Chile has become synonymous with cheap and cheerful wine, there are some terrific examples of the grape produced in places like the cool Casablanca Valley. This delightfully brisk and citrusy white is produced in one of the coolest spots in the region.

2. COTES DU RHONE

2015 Domaine Charvin Cotes-du-Rhone Le Poutet, \$17

Top Chateauneuf-du-Pape producer Domaine Charvin also turns out a predictably first-rate, old-vine Cotes du Rhone. This Grenache-dominant red is marked by an earthy, slightly herbal nose, bitter cherry fruit and bright acidity.

3. AMERICAN SPARKLING WINE

Gruet Brut Non Vintage New Mexico, \$12

Sparkling wine from the United States and especially sparkling wine made anywhere outside California may be not be much-heralded, but this methode Champenoise sparkler from a family winery celebrating their 30th year of production in New Mexico is a terrific value and a well made wine. Produced predominantly from Chardonnay, it's a dry,

medium-bodied wine with a note of green apple on the nose and a rich, yeasty finish.

4. NEW ZEALAND SAUVIGNON BLANC

2017 Craggy Range Martinborough Te Muna Road Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, \$17

This is no grocery-store Kiwi Sauvignon but a zesty white with character and verve made in the cool climate of Martinborough. It's fermented in oak and stainless steel in a slightly softer style that's more Loire Valley than New Zealand.

5. CHIANTI

2015 Fattoria Rodano Chianti Classico, \$16

This lively food-friendly red made from the Sangiovese grape may not be particularly complex, but it's definitely delicious. Located in the heart of the Chianti Classico region of Tuscany, Fattoria di Rodano produces well-priced and consistently well-regarded wines.

6. AUSTRALIAN SHIRAZ

2014 Jim Barry The Lodge Hill Shiraz Clare Valley, \$14

The Clare Valley, a cool-climate region in South Australia, is home to

excellent Riesling and Shiraz, and Jim Barry is one of the region's best-known producers. Lodge Hill is a high-elevation vineyard that produces a bright and savory wine, not the alcoholic or jammy Shiraz that so many drinkers dislike.

illes Vignes, \$11

Muscadet, the perennially undervalued white wine of the Loire Valley in France, may be the biggest value of all. This old-vine bottling delivers exceptional quality for the price. It's an intensely mineral wine with a powerfully zingy acidity.

9. MONTEPULCIANO

2015 Masciarelli Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, \$10

Montepulcianos from the Abruzzo region of southern Italy tend to be simple, commercial reds, often available in jug sizes; the Masciarelli family has long produced exceptions. This one is their most basic bottling, a light to medium bodied, slightly rustic red wine with an earthy, slightly spicy nose.

10. PINOT GRIGIO

2016 Alois Lageder Pinot Grigio Alto Adige, \$12

Once part of Austria, Italy's Alto Adige has an alpine climate perfectly suited to the production of crisp reds and whites. Made by one of the region's leading biodynamic producers, this is a clean, well-balanced, fairly light bodied white wine that's more than just another boring Pinot Grigio from Italy.

18

Spread on the Splendor



You could pay \$7 for fancy, fussed-up toast at your local cafe. Or you could keep a jar of kaya, the Southeast Asian coconut jam, on hand to slather on toasted bread for instant luxury, anytime. Auria's Malaysian Kitchen uses only natural ingredients, and not very many of them, in these kayas—one a salted caramel flavor, the other infused with nutty pandan leaf—also terrific on ice cream or pancakes. \$9, auriasmalaysiankitchen.com

19

GO FULL STEAM AHEAD

They're sustainable. They cook in minutes. They're cheap! And a meal of them always feels special. Mussels, the meaty, low-maintenance shellfish, need only olive oil, garlic, parsley and a splash of wine to shine. While you can cook them in any old stockpot, Le Creuset's new 8-quart carbon-steel beauty really makes an event of it. The purpose-built pot holds pounds of mussels, has a snug-fitting lid that keeps steam in and, with its pebble-gray enamel coating, is pretty enough to go straight from stovetop to table. \$100, available starting May 1 at lecreuset.com —G.G.



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Cook Without Clutter

Two new cookbooks and one cult classic make an art of eating simply and frugally

BY ADINA STEIMAN

CHANCES ARE you've never cooked a pot of fresh haricot beans over a wood fire on the rugged Greek island of Naxos, letting them simmer until you emerged from your midday swim to find the tender legumes "just immersed in a fragrant sauce." Yet for the expat British writer Patience Gray, this romantic vision was just a typical daily lunch. While living a nomadic life in remote Mediterranean villages with precious few resources, Ms. Gray soon learned that "good cooking is the result of a balance struck between frugality and liberality."

You might presume that watching your wallet (or your watch)

shockingly short ingredient lists, the author chronicles her contentment with eating a plate of simply cooked vegetables and very little else for lunch or dinner. Because out-of-season, non-local produce simply didn't exist in the places she lived, she shares ideas for feasting on the seasonal foods that are plentiful and, yes, cheapest at any given moment in the year. "A passion for youth and freshness, for grasping what the season has to give at the precise moment: This lends an ardor to daily living and eating," she writes. And her primitive pantry demonstrates just how little you need to buy to embellish your food, when a trickle of good olive oil, a thread of wine vinegar or a sprinkle of flaky salt can make most anything taste better.

Not quite ready to cook like you live in a converted mule shed on a Greek island? Two new cookbooks tackle thrifty cooking in even more approachable ways.

Melissa Coleman's "The Minimalist Kitchen" (Oxmoor House) shows home cooks how easy and affordable it is to make dinner when your kitchen is pared down to the essentials. Ms. Coleman, who helms a popular design-minded food blog called "The Faux Martha," lays out a radical approach: Stick to a set list of supermarket foods and then find endless ways to reinvent them. "The recipes in this book...use the same handful of tools and ingredients but offer a wide range of flavors," she promises.

But wait: Before you get cooking, Ms. Coleman wants you to clear out your cluttered pantry

I'm rather vain about my cooking. One must peck around to find the best recipes.

You can do so much with so little! My kitchen is strictly egg-free, of course.



SOUP'S ON A simple, satisfying Mexican-style pozole is one of the recipes on offer in these cookbooks that celebrate doing more with less.

and fridge. It's not just about spring cleaning. All that organizing, Ms. Coleman says, will help you cut down on overbuying at the store and food waste at home. And once you've followed her clear, practical advice—tossing expired packages, paring your spices down to a mere 20, transferring most pantry items to airtight, clearly labeled containers—"you realize all the things you can make," she writes. Top of my list? Chickpea tikka masala topped with crisp-roasted curry cauliflower, prepped with ingredients from an impeccably organized pantry.

Value in cookbooks doesn't just mean a modest grocery bill. After all, time is money and health is wealth. In "Healthyish," veteran recipe developer Lindsay Maitland Hunt aims to deliver "recipes for the real world"—ones that don't take too long to cook, dirty too many pots or weigh you down. After 15 minutes of prep, she promises, "you can step away from the stove to change into sweats, uncork the wine and queue up your

favorite show on TV while your dinner finishes cooking."

In her recipe for a Mexican-style pozole soup, she offers the timesaving alternative of using a rotisserie chicken and broth from a box. I opted to poach a whole chicken instead, so my version took a bit longer, but the dish absolutely did nail that hard-to-find balance of vibrant and comforting, using ingredients available at any supermarket. And I ended up with dividends: extra broth, chicken and neon-pink, quick-pickled onions that made my next dinner even easier (and cheaper) to throw together.

The rest of the book is filled with equally irresistible ideas, from a tangy romaine salad that puts roast pork tenderloin and carrots in a whole new context, to a near-instant raspberry-and-shortbread parfait ideal for demolishing a midweek hankering for dessert. A cookbook jam-packed with recipes you'll actually use? That's a pretty strong value proposition right there.

Pozole With Pinto Beans and Queso Fresco

SERVES: 4-6

Make quick-pickled red onions: Put 1 large red onion, thinly sliced, in a sealable jar. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup red wine vinegar and 2 teaspoons kosher salt. Seal jar and shake vigorously. Continue to shake occasionally until onions are soft, at least 15 minutes.

// Set broiler to high. Line a rimmed baking sheet with aluminum foil. In a small bowl mix 2 tablespoons canola oil, 2 teaspoons chili powder, 2 teaspoons kosher salt and 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. On prepared baking sheet combine 1 pound tomatillos, halved, 3 poblano peppers, stemmed and seeded, 1 medium yellow onion, quartered and leaves pulled apart, and 4 cloves garlic, peeled, and rub with oil-chili powder mixture. Broil, tossing once, until everything is golden brown and easily pierced with a fork, 13-15 minutes. // Transfer vegetables to a blender and purée until completely smooth. Pour into a large pot and add 8 cups chicken stock. Cover and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and add 4 cups shredded cooked chicken, 1 (29-ounce) can hominy, rinsed, and 1 (15½-ounce) can pinto beans, rinsed. Simmer until heated through, 5-7 minutes.

Stir in 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice, 1 teaspoon granulated sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper. // Serve topped with crumbled queso fresco, sliced radishes, cilantro leaves, quick-pickled red onions and lime wedges.

—Adapted from "Healthyish" by Lindsay Maitland Hunt (Abrams)

LINDA PUGLIESE (POZOLE); F. MARTIN RAMIREZ/ABRAHAM (BAKING); LINDA PUGLIESE (BAKING); CARLA GONZALEZ-HART (EASTER BREAD)

while cooking is a one-way ticket to deathly dull food. But Ms. Gray's memoir-cum-cookbook, "Honey From a Weed: Feasting and Fasting in Tuscany, Catalonia, the Cyclades and Apulia," finds the beauty in simplicity. First published over 30 years ago, the cult classic includes dozens of recipes as stripped-down and elemental as that pot of beans, gathered from Greek, Italian and Spanish home cooks who had to transform life's daily rations into soul-sustaining nourishment. Peel away the gauzy layers of Mediterranean romance, and you'll find dishes that could qualify for inclusion in any modern cookbook of \$10 dinners, 15-minute meals and 5-ingredient recipes.

"Honey From a Weed" is packed with surprising little dishes so seductive it's easy to forget how affordable they are: spring peas simmered with sliced new onions, fresh mint and olive oil; mussels stuffed with garlicky Parmesan breadcrumbs; spaghetti tossed with anchovies, preserved chiles, a bit of tomato sauce and plenty of olive oil and butter. But it's the life lessons Ms. Gray teaches along with her kitchen craft that make "Honey From a Weed" the godmother of good-value cookbooks.

Along with recipes that feature



21 RISE TO THE OCCASION

Making your own rainbow-sprinkled Italian-style Easter bread isn't as hard as you might think, but it does take time. To get the biggest bang for your baking, make a half-dozen loaves at once and share the yeast-risen, multicolored love with friends and family. Off Duty photo editor Allison Gumbel baked the bounty pictured here using a recipe from her great-grandmother, who emigrated from northern Italy to Clarksburg, W.V., and made a mega-batch for her big family every year. This bread keeps about a week in an airtight container and freezes well, too. A slice lightly toasted with a little butter is heaven. Find the recipe at wsj.com/food.

22

GRIND AND BEAR IT

It's hard to improve on a tool as ancient, simple, sturdy and multipurpose as the mortar and pestle, yet somehow the gadget geeks at Chef'n have managed it. They've left the basic bowl and pounding implement blessedly un-messed-with, rendered in cool, durable marble that transitions to the table elegantly. What changes the grinding game: an ingenious silicone base that absorbs shock and sound, and also lets you tilt the mortar to the angle optimal for you. Your wrist will thank you as you pulverize spices or whip up a quick aioli. There are so many kitchen gizmos you can do without—particularly if you stock the one that's absolutely indispensable. \$35, chefn.com



23

Flake Out

Some of the best baklava in America—flaky, buttery, honey-laced treasures made with grade-A nuts—can be found at the sprawling bakery Shatila in Dearborn, Mich. Good news for far-flung fans: You no longer have to venture to the Midwest for your favorite Middle Eastern treats, as Shatila has re-launched its e-commerce site. The bakery's signature gold boxes lend a luxurious touch, yet as fancy as the packaging looks, a 54-piece assortment will set you back only \$33. Considering the quality of these pastries, that's a sweet deal indeed. [Shatila](http://Shatila.com) Elegant Gold Box, \$33, Shatila.com —Priya Krishna



MY UNAPOLOGETIC SPLURGE

"My father sends eggs from his friend's farm in Vermont, outside Stowe. It ends up costing more to ship them than I would pay for organic at the market down the street, but it's totally worth it. Crack one on a hot pan with olive oil and a sprinkle of Maldon and fresh pepper, and I am a happy man."

Antoni Porowski
food and wine expert on Netflix's "Queer Eye"

THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: ADVENTURE & TRAVEL



POLE STAR Wawel Castle, Krakow's main tourist draw. Since the Nazis chose the city as their Polish headquarters in 1939, it was spared the German bombing raids that devastated Warsaw.

27

To Live Large for Less, Go East

A spring trip to the Polish city of Krakow reveals an intriguing mix of Easter splendor, haunting history and absurdly low prices

BY DALE HRABI

A CERTAIN TIGHTWAD attitude led my husband and me to Krakow last Easter on our annual spring holiday. The previous years, we'd vacationed extravagantly in Japan, spent too loosely in London and undertaken an overly ritzy tour of Switzerland, complete with \$5,000 impulse watch buys. It was time to economize.

Poland, we'd heard, was mercifully cheap. While I wasn't enthusiastic at first, worried the country would be grim with vestigial Communism and the scars of World War II, friends said they'd eaten there like kings. Hedonism cut with a little bleakness seemed an interesting mix.

We settled on a week in Krakow, which the occupying Nazis had chosen as their Polish home and so not bombed to ruins. When our taxi deposited us at the edge of Krakow's beautifully intact medieval Old Town, a bittersweet awareness of the city's narrow escape was inescapable. Our hotel, on the oldest cobblestoned street of all, immediately made it clear, however, that this Polish version of "bargain travel" was going to be enjoyable.

The 5-star Hotel Copernicus, so named because the famed astronomer lodged in the three-story renaissance building when passing through town, welcomed us with courtesy, austere luxury and crazily abundant sprays of pussy willows, 4 feet tall in simple glass vases. Spring has its fans at the Hotel Copernicus.

Though our room only set us back around \$200 a night (the exchange is not quite as favorable in 2018), it was vast, even echoey, frescoed, with a high, timbered ceiling and a beckoning, baronial oak

bed. Two leather armchairs faced each other in the middle, almost lonely in all that space. Our tiny room in Tokyo, twice as costly, seemed a cruel joke in retrospect.

We would go on to have many frugal meals that week, paying as little as \$4 for an ample entree of tender pierogi, \$2 for horseradish beetroot cream soup, but that first night, we splurged. We went downstairs to our hotel's own renowned restaurant, the 22-seat Copernicus, having signed up for the formal seven-course spread with some trepidation, being more of an eat-takeout-pasta-on-the-couch-while-watching-cable-news kind of couple back home in Brooklyn. The first sign that something special was afoot: Our table for two was so big it could have accommodated six diners, eight if they were chummy. (This does not happen in New York.) The second sign: Beside our plates, along with the odd knife, our waiter ceremoniously placed an array of forks and spoons *facedown*, which seemed vaguely Wiccan.

Then the courses began their parade—tarts, terrines, brûlées—more than justifying the roughly \$75-per-person cost, especially since our impeccable waiter kept slipping in extra unofficial courses; I counted both a pre- and a post-dessert. Perhaps unwisely, I capped off this meal with a swim in the hotel's



ECHO CHAMBER From left: One of the enormous, well-priced rooms at Hotel Copernicus; holiday cookies sold at Krakow's Easter market.

pool, tucked atmospherically into a shadowy, catacomb-like stone cellar, and had it all to myself once two larking New Jersey tweens retired for the night.

As the days unfolded, this sense of luxury—angst-free because it cost so little—manifested in many ways. Above all, we had the luxury of time: hours to wait among joking Poles for the "best haircut in town" (about \$14) at Butter Cut, a barbershop in the former Jewish quarter, Kazmierz, a still-down-at-heel hipster enclave; hours to chug along the Vistula River in a barely populated boat called the Peter Pan, wrapped in blankets as we passed a circa-1930s riverside police station, and a piped-in radio station played a song called,

aptly, "It's Easy to Be a V.I.P."

Old Town doesn't lack attractions—including the Planty, the picnic-ready park that rings it—but Easter's imminence brought on a new level of splendor. A country that's 96% Catholic isn't about to downplay the holiday. All manner of eggs sprouted up: foot-tall white plastic ones in feather nests as décor at restaurants; 4-inch plaster ones tucked into the pussy willows at our hotel; basket upon basket of pisanki, the traditionally decorated eggs, at the Easter market in the main square.

Before taking a proper wander through the market with its braided breads, toothsome iced cookies, T-shirts printed with '60s Polish cars, and edible "wrenches" and "hammers" rendered in chocolate, we stopped in at Café Noworolski for a beer. When the main square was forcibly rechristened Adolf Hitler-Platz during the war, SS officers took over this art nouveau cafe, and its faded opulence, all red velvet and Slavic filigree, still felt haunted.

We sensed the presence of Nazi ghosts, too, in the city's main tourist draw, Wawel Castle, a grand pile

of architectural styles atop a hill just outside Old Town. In 1939, the Germans ousted the castle's rightful tenants and installed governor-general Hans Frank, who would go on to declare that it was "absolutely intolerable that thousands upon thousands of Jews should go slinking around" the city. In the castle, we experienced another of the luxuries Krakow's relative freedom from crowds allows: a good five minutes alone with Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece "The Lady with an Ermine" (stolen from Poland by the Nazis but since returned and, as of 2018, housed in the National Museum, elsewhere in Krakow).

After the castle, we stopped into Pod Nosem, one of the city's top restaurants, the sort that would be well beyond our means back home. Flush as we were after a week in Krakow, it didn't seem out of order to order caviar and, for \$75 an ounce (a third of what the Russian Tea Room in Manhattan demands), we ate it with blinis and quail eggs and a decided lack of care.

► For details on where to stay and eat in Krakow, see wsj.com/travel



Hitch a Ride on A Private Jet

Who hasn't stood in an endless TSA queue and daydreamed about escaping in a private plane? Thanks to recent innovations in the jet chartering field, this seemingly absurd extravagance is within reach. JetSuite offers a few last-minute deals for one-way trips on jets (designed to hold four to 13 passengers) that would otherwise fly empty after dropping off a regular customer. Recently, "Suite Deals" were posted for flights from San Francisco to Las Vegas, Charleston, S.C. to Houston, and St. Louis to Washington, D.C.; prices start at \$536. jetsuite.com. And sister company JetSuiteX gives you a different path to this exclusive club, offering daily flights aboard premium-class 30-seat jets that only fly out of private terminals, from airports in L.A., the Bay Area and Las Vegas to seasonal destinations like Mammoth Lakes; fares start at \$129 per person one-way. jetsuitex.com

—Barbara Peterson

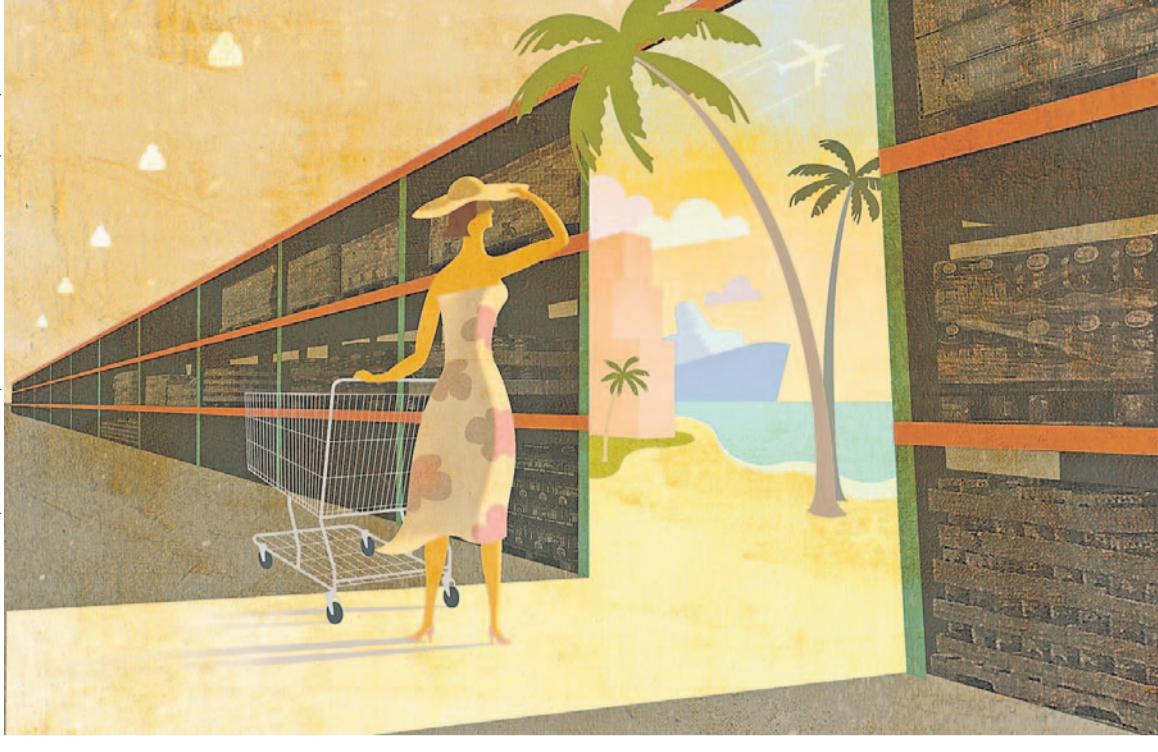


29 FIND TAHITI REASONABLE

Nothing can spoil the classic "run-away-to-a-South Pacific-island" fantasy quicker than tallying up the cost. Thatched-roof bungalows—the nice ones, at least—perched over crystalline water don't come cheap. Neither do the flights. Fortunately, Air Tahiti Nui is offering travelers who are willing to travel by May 31 a batch of air-and-resort deals. Take this enticingly priced example: a 30% savings on a six-day trip, with three nights on Tahiti, the country's main island, and the other three on the more textbook-idyllic Taha'a Island. At the latter, you'll stay in an overwater suite (pictured) at the luxe Le Taha'a Island Resort & Spa—fantasy realized! All flights included. Total price tag: \$5,796 for two. airtahitinui.com. For deals at other times of the year, check with the Art of Travel, a French Polynesia travel specialist, theartoftravelonline.com.

THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

ILLUSTRATION BY KEITH D. SKEEN; JAMES BELORINI; ILLUSTRATION BY MIKEY BURTON (SKI PASS)



30

Book a Big-Box Holiday

Attention, shoppers: Costco's been stocking up on luxury travel discounts lately. Throw some Turks & Caicos in with your toilet paper

BY TERESA RIVAS

WHEELING your supersize grocery cart, stuffed with a 30-roll pack of toilet paper and 20 plastic containers of organic hummus, around a vast, windowless warehouse can really remind you that you need a vacation. Luckily, you can pick one up on your next Costco run, too.

Bargain holiday shoppers have long gravitated to Costco Wholesale for family-oriented travel packages: a whirl in Disney World, an Alaskan cruise, a week at an all-inclusive Mexican beach resort. The packages often bundle components of the trip, like theme park fees, air and

accommodations. Lately, however, the big-box behemoth has been upscaling its travel deals, offering savings on stays at high-end hotel brands such as Fairmont, Park Hyatt and Waldorf Astoria around the world. And for proudly independent travelers who reject coddling travel packages, Costco launched a hotel-only portion of its travel website last summer.

Just how good are the deals? According to Chris Hendrix, who oversees the company's travel buying division, Costco members can save 10% to 30% off hotel rack rates, depending on the destination and dates. In our own comparison shopping, we found a one-week stay in June at the Park Hyatt New York for just over \$5,000 (for two) through Costco Travel, 10% less

than booking on the hotel's website and 7% cheaper than the price on offer at Priceline.com. A week in late April at the Chicago's Conrad hotel proved even more tempting—\$1,800, 22% less than posted on the hotel site. Also in April, a week-stay at Maui's Grand Wailea, a Waldorf Astoria resort, cost about \$4,270, 10% lower than offered by the hotel website. The Costco rate also included a daily buffet breakfast for two.

Perhaps even better than all-you-can-eat pineapple pancakes: Since September Costco Executive members have earned 2% back on their bookings, on top of the standard 3% cash back if they use their Costco Anywhere credit card—which also doesn't charge foreign transaction fees. costcotravel.com

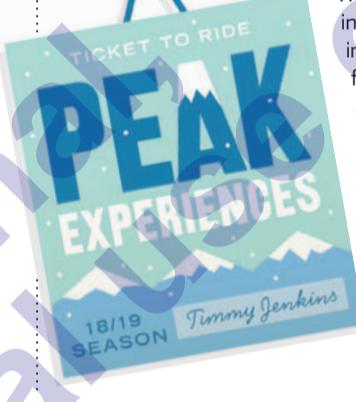
31

Tailgate at the Opera

The perception of opera is that it's expensive and stiff. Relatively speaking, however, the sticker shock is not that bad (been to a major sports event lately?) and the experience is unparalleled, especially if you combine a performance with a little summer tailgating. Think of it as living "The Great Gatsby" life on a budget. Tickets for this summer's "Madame Butterfly" at Santa Fe Opera are about \$47-\$250, for instance, and the parking lot opens three hours before curtain so audience members can nosh against the Southwestern landscape; the season runs June 29-Aug. 25. santafeopera.org. The al fresco tradition flourishes in the United Kingdom, where Glyndebourne (above), a country estate with its own opera house an hour from London by train, is famous for its formal-dress garden picnics—and provides changing facilities if you don't want to travel in a gown. The summer festival runs from May 19-Aug. 26. From about \$15-\$370 a ticket, glyndebourne.com. Less iconic but just as pleasurable is the Longborough Festival Opera (June 6-Aug. 2), in the scenic Cotswolds. A 90-minute intermission lets patrons enjoy a leisurely dinner in the open air. About \$50-\$280, lfo.org.uk —Elisabeth Vincentelli

32

SPRING FOR WINTER PASSES



With the price of ski tickets rising to nosebleed-inducing heights, thrifty snow junkies are investing in multi-resort passes. The new Ikon Pass, for one, unlocks 26 big-ticket destinations like Aspen and Deer Valley for \$599. ikonpass.com Vail Resorts group's Epic Pass provides access to 61 resorts in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia, starting at \$439; and if you book by April 15, you'll get six "buddy tickets" at deep discounts for friends. epicpass.com. And Mountain Collective, \$409 (as of press time), offers two free days at each of the 16 participating resorts (think Alta and Jackson Hole) then 50% off the single-day rate. mountaincollective.com —E.V.



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THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: DESIGN & DECORATING

38

Adopt a Paint Style of the Rich and Famous

Once, only the wealthy could choose wall colors on a whim. Now those same hues are just a few brush strokes away

BY KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

YOU MAY never amass the capital to build a pile like George Vanderbilt's 35-bedroom Biltmore Estate, in North Carolina, but you can match the sumptuous color of this wealthy aesthete's bedroom walls. Generally inexpensive, house paint is the Chanel lipstick of interiors, a point at which the hoi polloi and upper crust intersect. Certain paint colors, however, weren't accessible to most people until fairly recently.

In 18th-century England, for example, the affluent tended to choose hues such as an academic deep green, which cost 30 pence per pound compared with 4p per pound for common colors such as cream and gray. "Peach blossom," a sedate pink, also swept the upper classes, at 12p per pound. "When I'm looking in the microscope at paint layers," said Patrick Baty, historical paint consultant and author of "The Anatomy of Color" (Thames & Hudson), "I can see people's tastes and aspirations and snobbery and poverty and wealth."

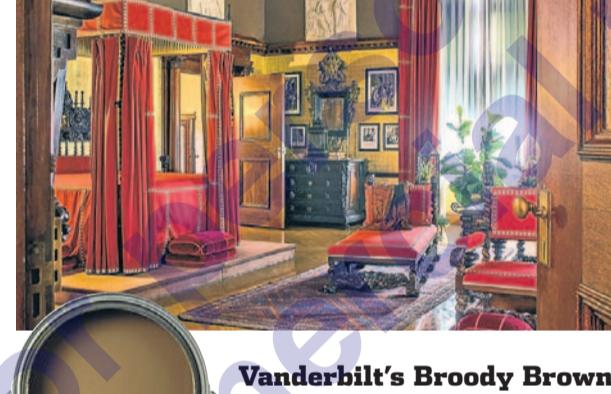
Today, synthetic pigments and binders—replacing crushed minerals and linseed oil—make thousands of shades affordable. We asked conservationists to match colors from four iconic homes, now museums, so you, too, can envelop yourself in historically rich pigments.

**Saarinen's Studio Beige**

Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen (1873-1950) concocted this complex putty hue himself. It appears in the north-facing working studio of his faculty home at Michigan's Cranbrook Academy of Art, where the family (including son Eero) lived from 1930 to 1950. "White was not part of Eliel's color vocabulary," said Gregory M. Wittkopp, director of the Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research. Mr. Wittkopp posits that Saarinen nonetheless wanted "a color that was going to be pretty reflective and keep [the room] as bright as possible" and so conjured this tawny shade, which maximizes the light from his leaded glass windows but adheres to an overall earthy palette of grays, greens and brown. Though self-effacing, the beige adds atmosphere. "One senses that nothing would have been allowed to compromise the clean lines and order seen here," said Mr. Baty. Twisted Oak Path 226, Regal Select, \$55 a gallon, benjaminmoore.com

**Monet's Luminous Yellow**

The indefatigably sunny color that coats the walls, moldings and furnishings of Claude Monet's dining room in Giverny, France, amplified sunshine (notice the dearth of electric lights). "Claude Monet wanted to bring light and color into his house," said Omeline Lemaitre, of Fondation Claude Monet. During the 43 years he lived here, until his 1926 death, Monet hosted midday meals with such illustrious guests as a prime minister, art dealers and fellow artists—from Mary Cassatt to Pierre-Auguste Renoir. "The color was by no means common," said Mr. Baty. "He might have been showing off." Pineapple Grove 333, Regal Select, \$55 a gallon, benjaminmoore.com

**Vanderbilt's Broody Brown**

Art collector and philanthropist George Washington Vanderbilt—grandson of industrialist "Commodore" Cornelius Vanderbilt—painted his private bedroom with chocolate brown. The mud-toned upper walls and ceiling create unlikely intimacy in the nearly 18-foot-tall room, one of 250 in Biltmore, the 1890s mansion he built in North Carolina. The color also acts as a matte foil to the 23K gold-coated burlap that clads the walls' lower sections from baseboard to walnut chair rail. Vanderbilt was his own decorator and stocked the room with antiques such as the walnut Portuguese baroque bed. Sherwin-Williams Nuthatch SW-6088, \$31 a gallon, sherwin-williams.com

**Hemingway's Cooling Blue**

Papa Hemingway deferred to his second wife, Pauline, in the renovation of the Key West, Fla., home they bought in 1931 and lived in for ten years. Pauline, a fashion editor for Vogue in Paris, selected cool interior colors, observed Dave Gonzales, executive director of the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum. "I would imagine here in the subtropics she was trying to visually cool down the weather," he said. Mr. Baty noted that, in sky blue, "the walls seem to vanish, and one is left with the impression of a loggia. Perhaps an impression of an outside room was wanted." Sweet Innocence 2125-50, Regal Select, \$55 a gallon, benjaminmoore.com



39

STEP UP TO REAL RUGS

Owning a quality vintage Turkish rug can seem an unfulfillable wish if you've been sifting through the overpriced carpets in internet bazaars or fondling the chintzy reproductions in big-box stores. Though not quite a genie in a lamp, Revival Rugs—a direct-to-consumer firm that an Oakland-based couple runs with friends stationed in Istanbul—can set you up. For as little as \$135, you can have an authentic accent rug or, for \$400, a 5-foot-by-8-foot Turkish carpet with enchanting, hand-knotted arabesques and richly dyed wool. Next step: Find something truly unobtainable to wish for. revivalrugs.com

—T.G.



40

Find a Youthful Fountain

Finally, a modern, design-minded alternative to the stodgy, irrationally heavy fountain pen. Newly launched Perkeo cartridge pens by 135-year-old German company Kaweco come in four color-blocked, matte-plastic models, write as smoothly as a Uniball and cost only \$16 each. To fend off boredom, buy a few and swap out the interchangeable faceted grips and tops. nannieinez.com —K.M.G.

MY UNAPOLOGETIC SPLURGE

"I like really good bedding: serious thread count, 100% cotton percale, appliquéd monograms. Our housekeeper, who seems to have the same linen fetish, irons them. They last forever and the more you wash them, the better they are."

Nathan Turner
interior designer
and author of
'Nathan Turner's I Love California'
(Abrams, April 10)

**41 Cut Ties With China**

Ceramic dinner plates in a pattern as delicate as this would likely cost enough to make you lose your appetite. Juliska's Lalana collection, however, cleverly rendered in melamine, requires an outlay of just \$18 per 11-inch plate. The design, inspired by Thai paintings and antique mosaic tiles, surpasses the taste level of most melamine offerings but, like its modest peers, can cheerfully survive a 4-foot fall and be thrown recklessly into the dishwasher, no questions asked. juliska.com —K.M.G.



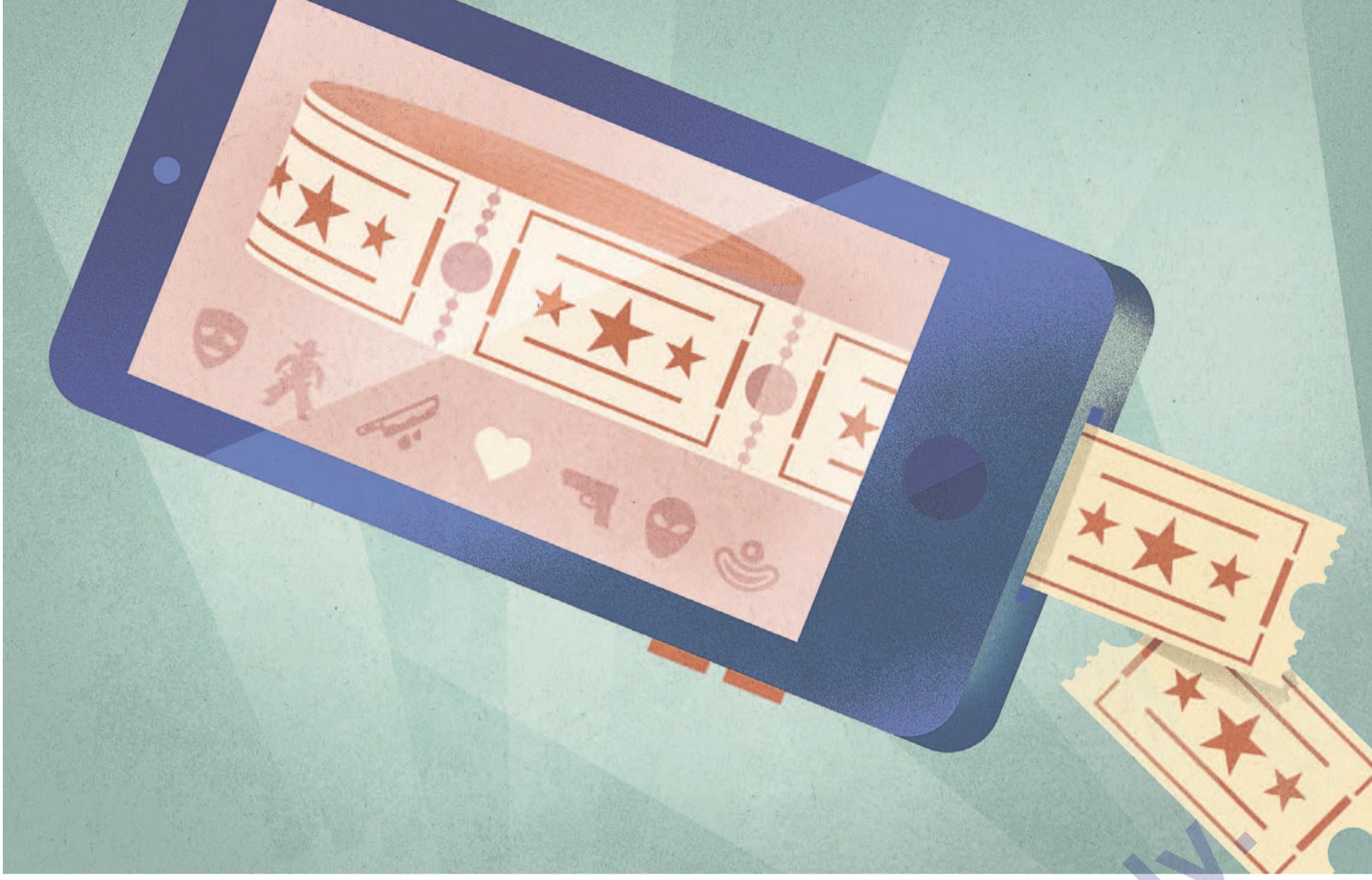
42

BREAK OUT A BREADBASKET

The high life: a trip to North Africa to plunge delicious bread into endless dips. The high-value life: this Moroccan breadbasket—an inspiration to whip up your own harissa. Berber craftsmen weave these snugly topped 9-inch vessels from palm-leaf fibers—wrapped in colorful wool thread. Whether you're storing comestibles or camouflaging clutter, you get a glimmer of Marrakesh without atomizing your travel budget. \$150, jaysonhome.com —E.P.



GEAR & GADGETS



43

Invest in 33-Cent Movie Tickets

The MoviePass app lets you see a film a day for only \$10 a month. So what's the catch?

BY MATTHEW KITCHEN

YOU CAN KEEP your sun-soaked sandy beaches and your ocean-blue Mai Tais. For me, the only true respite from the world is a cold, dark movie theater. As film critic Roger Ebert once grandly declared, the cinema provides a "proscenium for our dreams." Novelist and film director Stephen Chbosky said that laughing at a movie along with strangers "is living proof that you are not alone."

Hitting a theater also challenges you to turn off your phone for a few hours, which ain't nothing.

The problem is that rising costs have sapped much of the fun from the moviegoing experience. We've lost the ancient impulse to just show up and see what's playing—regardless of genre or even quality. In its place: We endlessly debate Rotten Tomatoes scores to deter-

mine whether a film is worth a date with the big screen or can safely be seen, months later, distractedly on Netflix. Most people would rather stay home than risk their cash on another sure-to-be regrettable sequel, which is likely why millennials are no longer buying in. The group's turnout at theaters dropped by about 17% between 2012 and 2013, according to the Motion Picture Association of America, and they've yet to return partly due to steep ticket-price hikes. To see a film at the Regal Cinemas in Manhattan's Union Square, for example, adults must now pay \$17.40; children and seniors, \$14.40. There are no cut-rate matinees, no student prices, though the theater is just blocks from New York University.

But now a suspiciously cheap solution has arrived. For less than \$10 a month, the MoviePass app lets you see a *film a day*, eliminating any anxiety about catching a subpar flick and opening the doors to unexpectedly great content you might

have thrifitily bypassed.

"It's changing culturally how we go to the movies," said Samir Mehta, a writer for "The Sinner" on USA. "I think it creates a more open and receptive audience."

MoviePass CEO Mitch Lowe recently described it to me as "bad movie insurance," even while admitting that might not be the best marketing speak. But he's right. This month I saw seven films, including smaller works like "Unsane" and (my favorite of 2018) "Thoroughbreds," which I might not have dared to lay out for otherwise. My cost was \$10 (plus concessions). MoviePass shelled out \$111.80.

"MoviePass allows filmgoers to take chances again and venture beyond critics' choices and box office bonanza toward the artistic, the obscure and maybe the experimental," said Craig Detweiler, a filmmaker and author of "Into the Dark: Seeing the Sacred in the Top Films of the 21st Century." "The film industry is predicated on taking your

money before you see the product, so it's actually a high-risk venture for audiences. MoviePass shifts that model and puts the power back in the hands of the filmgoer."

So precipitously has the cost of making films risen, added Mr. Detweiler, that studios are only willing to place safe bets on franchises like Star Wars, creating a "creative backlog." If we want to see original films again we have to prove that we're willing to pay for them. MoviePass helps make the case.

It's shockingly simple to use the app: Once you're within a football field's distance of the theater, you log in, click on your location and film of choice, and money is immediately loaded on a MoviePass debit card that's been shipped to you in the mail. As of March, the company eclipsed 2 million subscribers and sells roughly 7% of all U.S. tickets.

Of course, for the app's users, there's a catch: MoviePass collects relevant information—age, location, the types of films you frequent—to

directly market films, which could help it establish partnerships with studios. One such targeted email spurred me to see "I, Tonya" after work, and the indie comedy "Gringo" sold 22% of its tickets through the app, said Mr. Lowe.

For some, privacy is too high a price for cheap movies. Others, unwilling to risk seeing the "sold out" notice as they approach the cinema, would rather spend more to confirm their seats online. Still others just don't like movies enough to see at least one a month, at which point you're losing money on the deal.

But for those who prefer the darkened cathedral of a movie palace to couches and TVs, those who want to avoid distractions or take part in cultural conversations surrounding films like "Black Panther" without paying \$17, those who want to spontaneously disappear from view for a while or who get a kick out of schlocky films, MoviePass is propping open the theater's back door. Welcome in, film nerds.



44 Channel Your Inner Cheapskate

Just to catch you up: Insanely crisp TV needn't come at an insanely cruel price. While you might expect to pay a kingly sum for an outsize, ultra high-definition television, Samsung's latest 4K sets can be had for a peasant's price—likely less than you ponied up for your current screen. These Smart TVs offer four times the resolution of today's HD televisions and easily connect to your home's WiFi network, letting you stream content from Netflix, Amazon Prime and YouTube without introducing console blight with another blinking black box. It's the best thing to happen to TV since "Stranger Things" (which—good news—is now available in 4K). From \$450, samsung.com —Joshua Fruhlinger

45

PITCH PERFECTLY

We'd all be more likely to go camping—the gloriously parsimonious way to vacation—if setting up the tent didn't require an advanced engineering degree. Wenzel's new Shenanigan series of teepee-style tents are designed with style, price, and ease in mind. Rather than requiring you to thread a thicket of collapsible poles through a maze of loops and grommets, you simply stake the base into the ground, pop the central pole into place at the center of the floor, and promptly turn your attention to cold beer, warm s'mores and obsessively calculating what you saved on hotels. The tents come in 5- and 8-person sizes with mesh windows and three shielded vents so fresh air gets in, rain and bugs stay out. From \$120, wenzelco.com

—Matthew Kronsberg



46

MEET A NEW MATCH

Remember "Memory," the image-matching card game from your childhood? These affordably chic versions show that regressing doesn't mean leaving sophistication behind. The Owen Jones-designed "Fancy Letters" (\$14, pomegranate.com) takes inspiration from the illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages, while Sigrid Calon's deck (\$19, papress.com) riffs on the Risograph prints of the 1980s. The bright colors and elegant lines of "Memo" evoke vintage travel postcards of the early 20th century (\$19, kidcrave.com). —Andrew McAlpine



THE SPRING OFF DUTY 50: GEAR & GADGETS

47

Live Abroad, Narrowly

It may not be the high-seas life, but continuously cruising the U.K.'s waterways in a slender houseboat is a crafty way to live

BY DAN NEIL



WITH A drink in one hand and a garden hose in the other, Bruce was living the dream.

I think it was Bruce. The one detail of this whole weird encounter I can't seem to remember is this cat's name. Anyway, the native South African was giving his boat a bit o' polish one afternoon in July 2015 when I met him near the town of Chester in northwest England. The snake-bellied McLaren I was driving couldn't quite negotiate an old stone bridge leading to town. Hoping to find a footbridge, I parked and walked down to the bank of what I later learned was the Shropshire Union Canal main line, from Wolverhampton in the south to Ellesmere Port on the Mersey.

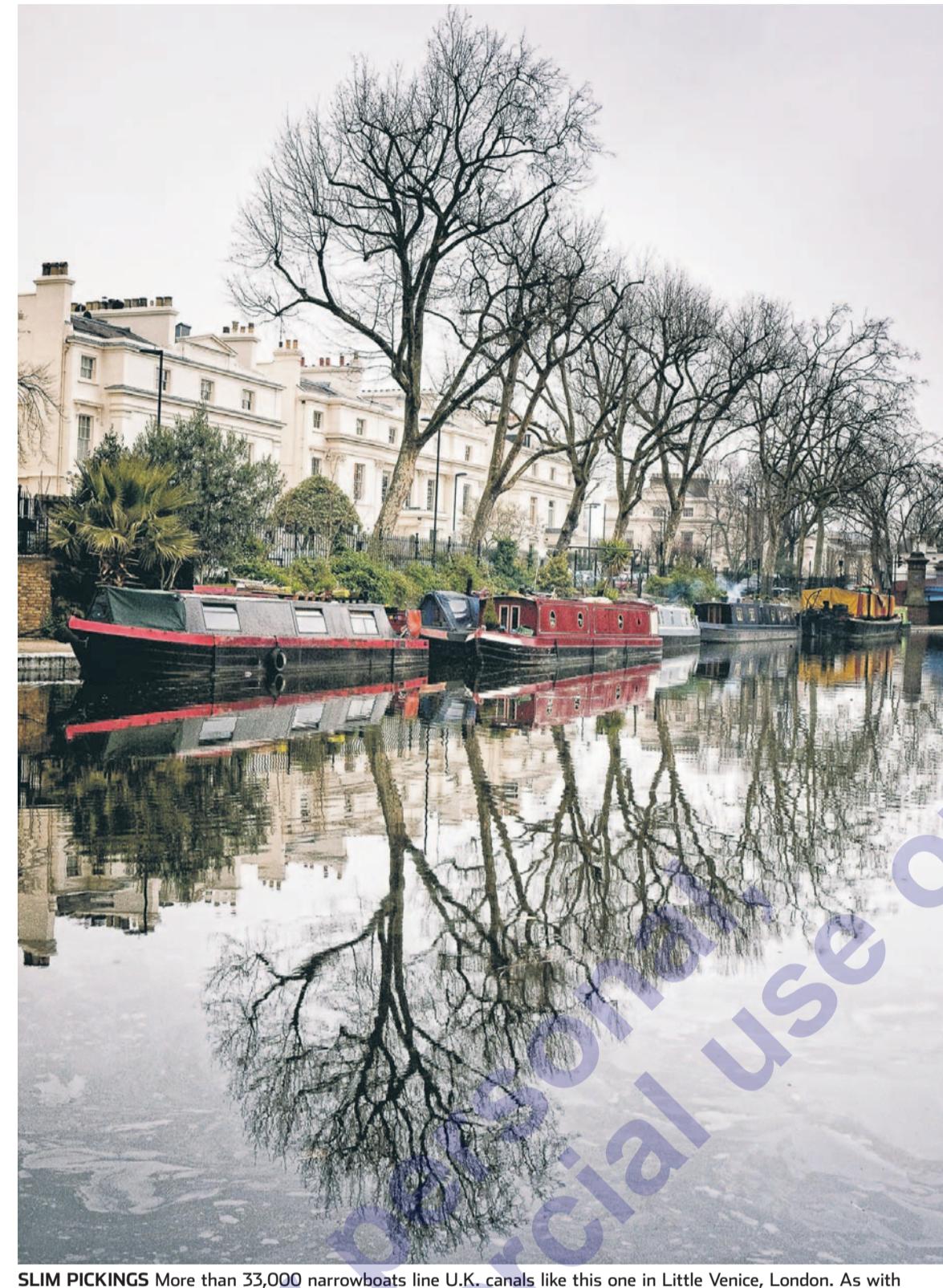
There was Bruce, standing on the quay in glo-yellow Crocs, next to *Lee Marie*: 57 feet long, not quite 7 feet wide, its boxy superstructure as shiny-black as a mobster's coffin.

Lee Marie was a fairly typical British narrowboat, or canal boat, designed to navigate the 2,200 miles of insanely picturesque canals left over from the Industrial Revolution, when most freight moved by horse-drawn boats. Almost abandoned after World War II, the canal system was rescued first through the efforts of recreational boaters and then by Her Majesty's government, who recognized the economic potential of what is now a £1.3 billion-a-year leisure boating industry. The U.K. Canal & River Trust (CRT) estimates there are more than 33,000 vessels licensed to operate in these waters and as many as 15,000 live-aboards.

I'm from boat people in North Carolina but the closest we had back home was the ironclad *USS Merrimack*. So naturally I was curious. Bruce, in his early 60s and recently divorced, told me that six months before, he had sold everything he owned in Johannesburg, moved to the U.K. and took possession of this, his first boat, which he bought online and sight unseen. That must have been some divorce.

I was dubious of my new friend's life decisions. Many Americans fantasize about chucking it all, buying a boat and sailing off the grid. But why do it in a floating flower box with a top speed of 4 mph?

It turns out the straight and nar-



SLIM PICKINGS More than 33,000 narrowboats line U.K. canals like this one in Little Venice, London. As with trendy tiny homes, living in these humble houseboats is surprisingly easy if your shoulders aren't too broad.

row is also cheap. Bruce was pleased to tell me he paid \$50,000 for his 24-year-old boat, in turnkey condition, with an up-to-date inspection, recent hull blacking, and fresh cushions, curtains and a new fridge. A used saltwater cabin cruiser with anything like the living space would cost twice as much.

And, by a quirk of the 1995 Brit-

ish Waterways Act, boaters who keep moving ("continuously cruise") pay no more in licensing than owners of moored boats—just about \$850 annually, on average—even though they use more of the canal's services. Continuous cruisers also avoid moorage costs, which for a boat the length of *Lee Marie* would be about \$3,500 annually at nearby

Swanley Bridge Marina. Cruisers typically don't incur "council" taxes from cities or other jurisdictions.

These incentives have spawned a meandering armada of live-aboard cabin cruisers, barges, narrowboats, and other gaily painted scows now afloat on Britain's inland waterways, some just barely. In London, the housing crisis has spilled into

the waterways, creating ghettos of derelict boats along the Thames.

Much to the dismay of weekend yachtsmen, continuous cruisers also tend to hog the best public moorings in London and Bath, and that has drawn the attention of the CRT. A proposed fee increase for boats without home moorings was shot down in March pending further review, but it's clear some sort of increase is inevitable, as the CRT said, "to fairly reflect the benefit experienced by these boaters."

Europe is full of rivers and river boats of vernacular design. Captains looking to explore the upper reaches of France's canal system, for example, must observe the Freycinet gauge, limiting boats to a beam of less than 17 feet. British narrow-boats fit in a hole half that size. The maximum beam is 6-feet-10 inches, as determined by the width of the canal locks. Most locks can accommodate boats up to 72 feet LOA (length overall). Also, due to the innumerable ancient bridges like the one that stopped my car, the overhead on many canals is less than 10 feet. So not a lot of head room.

After some polite boat talk and broad hinting, Bruce invited me aboard. His was a traditional design with a circular fantail just large enough for two to stand on. Cruiser styles afford more open deck aft of the cabin. *Lee Marie* had been painted like an Edwardian steam engine: glossy black, with the name on the superstructure hand-lettered in gold-leaf and red piping, and doors and hatch festooned with blushing chrysanthemums and vining, the riverine folk art known as Roses and Castles.

If Bruce's boat was nutty Old English on the outside, it was full-press Danish modern on the inside. A previous owner had gutted the interior and rebuilt with sleek Ikea-style cabinetry and lightwood paneling on the walls and ceiling. The galley in the stern (reverse layout) included a boat-typical propane range and fridge, microwave, no dishwasher, no dryer. Following Bruce forward through the hobbitish space, I wiggled around the folding dinette and past the tiny wood-burning space heater in the corner of the lounge area. Then, stepping through the shower room with cassette-style toilet, we arrived in Bruce's stateroom and his small, unmade bunk.

Lee Marie was a dream boat just big enough for one, and only if he slept lengthwise.

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MAKE EACH SHOT WORTH IT

Polaroid's Impossible I-1 camera reminds the snap-happy that physical pictures once existed, letting them explore analog and digital photography with one versatile device. Though in one sense it's a traditional Polaroid, when it's connected to an integrated app, you can use your smartphone to "paint" your shots with light and color effects, stage double exposures, set timers and scan images to a photo library. Its unique ring flash doubles as an assistant, cluing you in to your Bluetooth connection status, battery life and the number of shots left. It's an instant camera for an Instagram world. \$140, polaroidoriginals.com



Am I too fat to fit on one of those skinny houseboats?

Stop fishing for compliments.



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Charge More, Pay Less

Calling all myopic campers: BioLite's sleek SunLight lamp illuminates the wilderness without costly batteries. Nearly flat and 3-inch square, with a solar panel back and 100 lumen dimmable light panel on front, it's more versatile than bulky flashlights and won't compromise your dignity like a strap-on headlamp. A micro USB port allows for indoor charges. For a deep-forest campsite—or just an evening dogwalk in the suburbs—this cheery little light has you covered. \$25, bioliteenergy.com —Brigid Mander



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RUN DOWN A GOOD DEAL

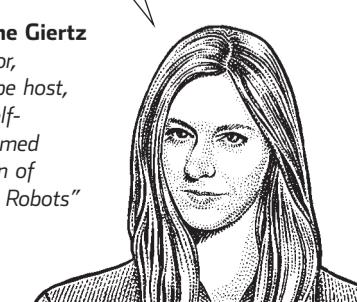
Running coaches can cost upward of \$300 per hour, but even the most eagle-eyed are sometimes too preoccupied with shouting at you enthusiastically to spot all the subtleties of an injurious foot strike. A smarter investment for runners looking to safely shrivel their marathon times? Altra's Torin IQ sneakers. When the shoes are sync'd to your smartphone, embedded sensors in the midsole calculate each foot's metrics—including impact rate, landing zone, cadence and more. They then relay that data to an app that offers real-time feedback to fix your stride via a virtual running coach. \$220, altrarunning.com



MY UNAPOLOGETIC SPLURGE

"Anything I can use to build stuff. I splurge on quality tools because I'm running them pretty hard. I recently got a new set with every imaginable drill size. You open it and there's just this grid of drill bits that makes me feel like I'm in control of life."

Simone Giertz
inventor,
YouTube host,
and self-proclaimed
"Queen of Sh*tty Robots"





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