

MAIN STORIES

A GROWING
NUCLEAR
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dollar good
or bad?

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Ivanka's
damaged
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THE WEEK

THE BEST OF THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Did Flynn act alone?

The FBI investigation into
the Trump campaign's
contacts with the Kremlin

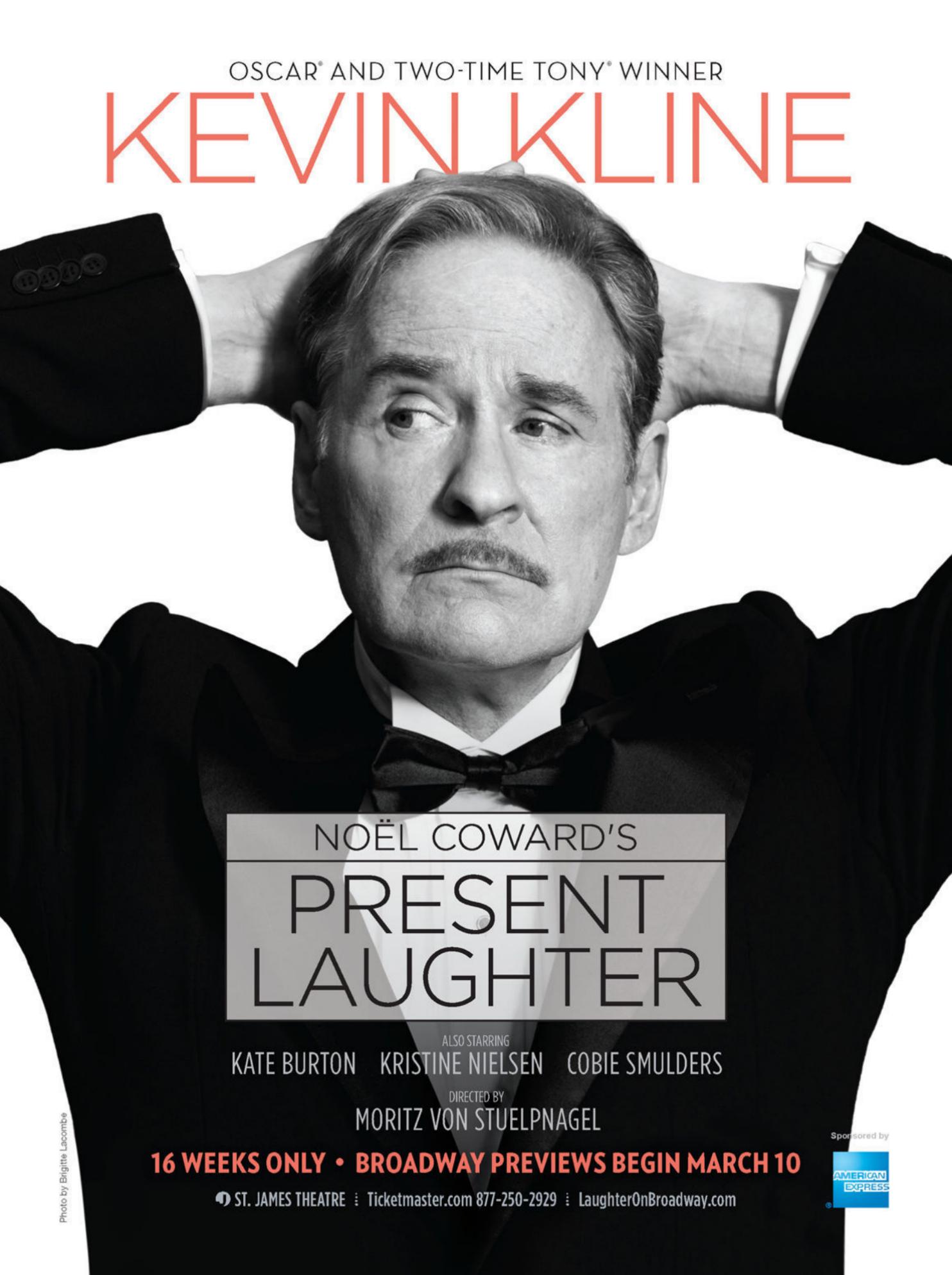
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FEBRUARY 24, 2017 VOLUME 17 ISSUE 810

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KEVIN KLINE

A black and white photograph of actor Kevin Kline. He is wearing a tuxedo with a bow tie and has his hands behind his head. He has a mustache and is looking upwards and to the side with a thoughtful expression.

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Editor's letter

Live by the leak, die by the leak. When WikiLeaks was releasing a steady stream of embarrassing emails hacked from Democratic officials during the presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton and her supporters cried foul, and urged the press not to report their contents. Donald Trump applauded every new revelation, saying the leaks provided voters with important information, and gleefully invited the Russians to find and publish emails she had deleted. "Boy, that WikiLeaks has done a job on her, hasn't it?" Trump exulted. Now that it's Trump who is being tortured by leaks, he's complaining they're illegal and "un-American." Democrats, meanwhile, are welcoming the torrent like a rainstorm after a long drought. (See Main Stories.) When it comes to leaks, everyone is a hypocrite. "Good" leaks are ones that damage our opponents. "Bad" leaks are those that hurt Our Side.

But let's set partisanship aside for a moment. Is it always in the public interest for government officials to leak, and for the

media to publish leaked material? Crusading journalist Glenn Greenwald—who angered the Obama administration by publishing Edward Snowden's trove of stolen NSA documents—argues in *The Intercept.com* this week that all leaks exposing "wrongdoing" are good ones, regardless of the leaker's motives. "Leaks are illegal and hated by those in power (and their followers)," Greenwald says, "precisely because political officials want to be able to lie to the public with impunity and without detection." The implication of this argument, of course, is that governments, politicians, and organizations should not keep *any* secrets—that when people in power conceal documents, emails, or information that could embarrass them, they are by definition deceiving the public. Radical transparency certainly sounds noble—but I suspect it's a standard no public official, or indeed most of us, could survive. It's so much more convenient to have a double standard: Transparency for thee, but not for me.

William Falk
Editor-in-chief

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Flynn resigns amid growing Russia scandal

What happened

President Donald Trump's administration this week faced potentially explosive investigations into its connections to the Russian government, after leaks from intelligence agencies forced the resignation of national security adviser Michael Flynn. The three-star general resigned over several phone calls he made in December to the Russian ambassador to the U.S., Sergey Kislyak, on the same day the Obama administration imposed sanctions on Moscow in retaliation for Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. When news of those calls first emerged in mid-January, Flynn denied discussing sanctions with Kislyak—a denial publicly repeated by Vice President Mike Pence. But *The Washington Post* reported that transcripts of the calls, made by the U.S. intelligence agencies that had intercepted them, revealed that Flynn did suggest to Kislyak that Russia not react to the sanctions because Trump might reverse them—a possible violation of a law prohibiting private citizens from negotiating with foreign governments. The newspaper also reported that White House Counsel Donald McGahn was warned in late January that Flynn had misled Pence about the calls, and could therefore be vulnerable to blackmail by Moscow. As the furor mounted last week, Flynn stepped down, acknowledging that he had “inadvertently briefed the vice president-elect with incomplete information.”



Flynn: Admits to providing ‘incomplete information’

The FBI and other intelligence agencies are conducting a broad investigation into contact by members of Trump's campaign team and inner circle with senior Russian intelligence officials during the election, *The New York Times* reported. Those contacts occurred at the same time Russian-backed hackers were giving emails from Democratic officials to WikiLeaks. President Trump dismissed the “Russia connection” as “nonsense,” and said the “real scandal” was intelligence agency leaks. He has reportedly tapped retired Vice Admiral Robert Harward, a former Navy SEAL, to replace Flynn.

GOP Senate leaders said Flynn's links to Russia would be examined as part of an existing Intelligence Committee investigation into Moscow's interference in the election. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said the Russian investigation had cast a cloud over the White House and was interfering with Republican policy initiatives, including tax reform and replacing Obamacare. “It's a dysfunctional White House,” McCain said. “Nobody knows who's in charge.”

What the editorials said

Flynn's departure won't end this scandal, said the New York *Daily News*. Trump hasn't explained why he took weeks to remove Flynn from his post after being told Flynn had lied, or why he's so determined to forge an alliance with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The day after Flynn spoke to Kislyak in five separate calls, Moscow announced it wouldn't retaliate against the U.S. sanctions—a decision Trump

immediately praised as a “great move,” adding, “I always knew he [Putin] was very smart!” Was Flynn really a “rogue operator,” or was he simply “carrying out Trump policy”?

Flynn was damaged goods and needed to go, said *The Wall Street Journal*, but we shouldn't ignore the fact that a senior government official has been brought down by targeted, anonymous leaks from our intelligence agencies. Those agencies appear to be mounting “an insurrection” against Trump in revenge for his negative comments about them. Aren't the liberals who have been fretting about Trump's supposed authoritarianism concerned that “authoritarian tactics were used against Flynn”?

What the columnists said

This mushrooming scandal “could conceivably oust Donald Trump from power,” said Fred Kaplan in *Slate.com*. Intelligence agencies that have been analyzing the infamous “dossier” on Trump's Russian ties have corroborated some of its less salacious allegations, including the dates and places of specific meetings between Russian officials and Trump associates. More bombshells will go off, sooner or later. Republicans will not be able to play ostrich if there's evidence that the president is “secretly beholden to a foreign power.”

Regardless of your view of Trump, the intelligence agencies' “political assassination” of Flynn should trouble every American, said Eli Lake in *BloombergView.com*. It is highly unusual, and illegal, for intelligence agencies to leak the contents of electronic intercepts—especially in order to destroy a top U.S. official. “This is what police states do.” Expect more leaks. For the intelligence agencies, “Flynn is only the appetizer. Trump is the entrée.”

Flynn's demise may actually be “the best thing that could happen” to Trump, said Jonathan Tobin in *NationalReview.com*. It will force him to put U.S. interests first in any dealings with Putin, and reconsider how he's managing his administration. If he's “as smart as he thinks he is,” Trump will see this scandal as a warning that he needs to bring in “competent professionals” and stop relying on chaos-creating ideologues like Flynn and chief strategist Steve Bannon.

What next?

Flynn's troubles are far from over, said Josh Gerstein in *Politico.com*. The retired general was interviewed by the FBI after the inauguration; if he lied to agents about discussing sanctions with the Russian ambassador, he could be facing a felony charge. Meanwhile, the Senate Intelligence Committee has been charged with “getting to the bottom” of the Russia scandal, said Carl Hulse in *The New York Times*. Democrats aren't happy about this, because much of the committee's work is done in secret. They also don't trust Jeff Sessions' Justice Department to oversee the FBI investigation and are demanding a special prosecutor. But Republicans do not want to create a special congressional commission or appoint a special prosecutor, because it would only “add to the furor.”

Trump won't be able to move on from this scandal easily, said Chris Cillizza in *WashingtonPost.com*. They say “there's no smoke without fire,” and the White House is currently “engulfed in smoke.” Why was Trump's campaign in “constant” contact with Russia during the election? Why is Trump so reluctant to say anything that would anger Putin? The only way Trump can put this fire out is by explaining, in person, “what he knew and when he knew it.” If he doesn't, “we might be looking at a full-on blaze very, very soon.”

North Korea missile launch tests Trump

What happened

The Trump administration faced its first major national security challenge this week after North Korea successfully launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile and edged closer toward dictator Kim Jong Un's goal of developing a nuclear-capable rocket that could reach the U.S. The Pukguksong-2 missile traveled some 310 miles toward Japan before splashing down in international waters east of the Korean peninsula. Believed to be an upgrade of a submarine-launched version Pyongyang tested last year, the missile is thought to have a maximum range of more than 1,200 miles. That's still some 2,000 miles short of the closest U.S. soil, but a clear threat to regional allies Japan and South Korea. President Trump learned of the launch while dining with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Fla. "Obviously North Korea is a big, big problem," he said at a news conference two days later, "and we will deal with that very strongly." It was more-measured language than Trump used last month, when Kim threatened to test an intercontinental ballistic missile. "It won't happen!" Trump tweeted.

The United Nations Security Council denounced the missile launch and urged members to "redouble their efforts" to implement U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang, which has conducted five nuclear tests, including two last year. Han Tae Song, North Korea's Geneva-based ambassador to the U.N., insisted the launch was a self-defense measure needed "to protect national sovereignty."

What the editorials said

Trump's unusually muted response was prudent, said *The Washington Post*. "There is nothing to be gained right now by drawing red lines," and there is no plausible military solution that does not risk a war—and hundreds of thousands of deaths—on the Korean peninsula. "This points to negotiation." China, North Korea's main sponsor, has urged the U.S. to restart talks with Pyongyang. If Trump gets to the table, it will be a critical test of his "oft-touted deal-making skills."

Sure, we should talk, said *The Washington Times*. But we can't ignore the fact that Kim is creeping toward developing an inter-



Preparing the Pukguksong-2

continental missile capable of devastating the U.S. West Coast. Trump must follow through on the 2017 National Defense and Authorization Act, which called for the completion of a layered missile defense system capable of defending the entire U.S. homeland. "The time to build a reliable shield is before Domsday, not in the ruins."

What the columnists said

Stop panicking: "Pyongyang is unlikely to lob missiles or nuclear weapons at the U.S.," said Isaac Stone Fish in *The Atlantic*. Kim wants to enjoy the trappings of power and knows that if he were to target

Los Angeles or Seattle, his nation would be obliterated in a retaliatory strike. So unless North Korea chooses to commit suicide by declaring war on South Korea or Japan, dragging the U.S. into a ground war, "it barely poses a military threat to America."

This new missile might not present a direct threat to the U.S., but it does to our allies, said *The Economist*. The Pukguksong-2 is a major breakthrough for the North because it uses solid fuel, which gives it "greater mobility, durability, and ease of use" compared with its liquid-fuel-powered predecessors. Solid-fuel missiles don't have to travel with a retinue of tankers carrying propellant, which makes them easier to conceal from U.S. satellites and spy planes, "and they can be launched with as little as five minutes' notice." So the Pukguksong-2 might be spotted by the U.S. only when it's already rocketing toward Japan, where more than 80,000 American troops are stationed.

"Handling North Korea is a team sport and we need China," said former NATO Supreme Allied Commander James Stavridis in *Time*. Beijing is the North's economic lifeline, and without China on our side, "further sanctions are useless." Winning China will require compromise, such as easing U.S. opposition to Chinese island building in the South China Sea. Of course, we should supplement any negotiations with muscle—special operations forces should prepare for an invasion to take out Kim and the leadership. As in the past, we can also offer carrots to Kim, such as food assistance, alongside sticks, like deeper sanctions. "There is no silver bullet, but the sooner we start dealing with Kim, the better."

It wasn't all bad

■ Jessica Sharman fell in love with the same man twice. When the 20-year-old Briton woke up in the hospital last March after an epileptic attack, her memory was wiped clean. She didn't recognize her parents, or her doting boyfriend, Rich Bishop. She tried to end their relationship, but Rich vowed to win back her heart. He took her on walks in familiar parks and revisited their favorite restaurants. Eventually, Rich won her over—again. "I don't remember the first time I fell in love with Rich," says Sharman. "But I do remember the second."

■ An Auschwitz survivor and the Scottish commando who saved her celebrated their 71st Valentine's Day together this week. John Mackay, 96, helped liberate a number of prisoners from the concentration camp—including Hungarian Jew Edith Steiner, now 92. The two



John and Edith: A love story

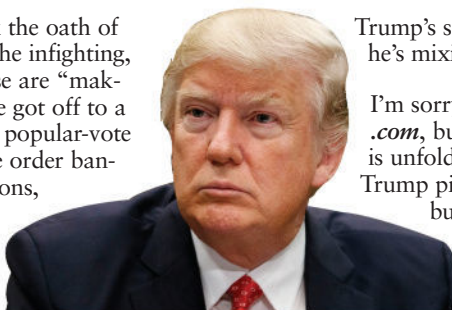
met at a village dance to celebrate the prisoners' liberation and have been together ever since. They married in 1946 and eventually settled in Dundee, Scotland—where, this year, the couple rang in Feb. 14 at a party in their senior citizens' home. "It's lovely to have such a real example of true love with us," said one staff member.

■ After a Girl Scout selling cookies was robbed at gunpoint, California cops reached into their own pockets to make things right. Harshita Phardwaj, 12, and her mom were running a cookie stand outside a Union City supermarket when a man threatened them with a gun and stole all their cash. Local police are still looking for the culprit, but decided to help Phardwaj's fundraising drive by buying all of her remaining cartons of Samoas, Thin Mints, and other Girl Scout Cookies—donating \$1,000 in total. "We did what we could to make it loving, compassionate, and healing," says Officer Lisa Gratez.

Trump: Can he regain control of his presidency?

Less than a month after Donald Trump took the oath of office, said Jeet Heer in *NewRepublic.com*, the infighting, chaos, and ineptitude within his White House are “making the president look weaker every day.” He got off to a bad start with his obsessive concern over his popular-vote deficit, rushed out a poorly drafted executive order banning travel from seven Muslim-majority nations, and this week was caught up in the scandal surrounding the resignation of national security adviser Michael Flynn. The deeper problem is that after a lifetime of running a family business, Trump “doesn’t know how government works,” has no coherent management structure, and is being undermined by a daily torrent of leaks to the media by aides jockeying for position. Morale within the White House is in free fall, said Alex Isenstadt in *Politico.com*, and insiders say the president himself is deeply “frustrated with the challenges of running the massive federal bureaucracy.” Being president, his aides say, “is harder than Donald Trump thought.”

Look, “every new president goes through a shakeout period,” said Michael Goodwin in *NYPost.com*. These early stumbles are getting so much attention only “because the opposition media and Democrats are united in trying to thwart his presidency.” Trump mustn’t let himself get distracted by the steady flow of leaks to the hostile press. To get back on track, he needs to “stay focused on the big picture”: tax reform, jobs, border security, and rebuilding the military. In its desperation to delegitimize his presidency, the media is ignoring what Trump has already accomplished, said Kelly Riddell in *The Washington Times*. He’s begun the process of building a wall, instituting extreme vetting of people from terrorism-prone nations, enforcing immigration laws, and filling the Supreme Court vacancy with a real conservative. As for the supposed chaos,



It's harder than he thought.

Trump’s supporters voted for change and “are thrilled he’s mixing things up in Washington.”

I’m sorry, said Jonah Goldberg in *NationalReview.com*, but “the idea that Trump’s brilliant master plan is unfolding just as he intended is frick’n bonkers.”

Trump pitched himself to voters as a super-competent business executive who’d fix Washington. So far, he’s got his travel ban stopped by a federal judge, lost his national security adviser to a growing FBI investigation, and can’t seem to stop his top aides from stabbing each other—and him—in the back. Only a true

Trumpist still believes “the Mastermind has everything under control.” Trump supporters point to the pile of executive orders he’s signed as proof of his effectiveness, said Zachary Karabell in *Politico.com*. But nearly all of them are “essentially statements of intent with no legal force.” So far, this has been “the illusion of a presidency, not the real thing.”

“Can this presidency be saved?” asked Ross Douthat in *NYTimes.com*. Yes, of course. All Trump would have to do is drop the divisive tweeting and rhetoric, and let competent Cabinet officers such as Rex Tillerson and James Mattis take the lead on foreign policy and Jeff Sessions figure out an immigration-enforcement agenda. Congressional Republican leaders should be given the responsibility of figuring out how to replace Obamacare. Trump would then be free to “hammer” away at a few simple, popular projects such as an infrastructure bill and a middle-class tax break. Yes, but does that sound like Trump? said Richard Cohen in *The Washington Post*. He has spent his life indulging his narcissistic impulses; seeking vengeance against his enemies; and creating chaos, conflict, and drama. “At the age of 70, Donald Trump is not about to grow up.”

Only in America

■ Tennessee lawmakers have proposed making it legal for drivers to run over protesters who block public streets. The Republican-sponsored legislation would protect motorists from civil liability if a protester were injured, provided the driver exercised “due care.” The bill comes 10 days after a car ran into people at a Nashville protest against President Trump’s travel ban. Similar driving laws have been proposed in five other states.

■ A group of Pennsylvania high school students celebrating “Hick Night” taunted black players on a rival basketball team. Sporting flannel shirts, camouflage hats, and a Trump sign, the 60 students from Connellsville yelled “Build the wall!” and “Get them out of here!” until school officials intervened. “I’ve never seen so many racist and hate-fueled comments,” one parent said.

Good week for:

Amateur lawyers, after a minimally educated farmer in China who spent 16 years teaching himself law won a \$120,000 settlement from a chemical company that had dumped toxic waste on his village’s farmland. “I knew I was in the right,” Wang Enlin said.

Search parties, after the Wales Coast Guard found a man believed to be lost at sea safely drinking in a local pub. The man had been last seen cut off by the rising tide while walking on an estuary, but then turned up at the nearby Ship Aground pub, where he said he “rescued himself.”

The highest form of flattery, after a newspaper in the Dominican Republic published a picture of Alec Baldwin impersonating Donald Trump on *Saturday Night Live* and mistakenly identified the actor as “President of the United States.”

Bad week for:

Ride sharing, after a French businessman sued Uber for \$48 million, claiming that a glitch in the ride-sharing app’s software gave his wife notifications of his comings and goings, leading to accusations of infidelity and a nasty divorce.

Typos, after President Trump’s official inauguration photo had to be pulled from the Library of Congress’ online store because of a misspelling. The autographed portrait featured the quote: “No dream is too big, no challenge is to great.”

Flying Solo, after actor Harrison Ford, 74, mistakenly landed his single engine Husky plane on a taxiway at a California airport, narrowly missing a passenger plane preparing for takeoff. “Was that airliner meant to be underneath me?” the actor asked air control.

Boring but important Cutting regulations

The Trump administration is overseeing one of the biggest regulatory rollbacks ever, according to a *Washington Post* investigation—using legislative and executive methods to dismantle rules governing how dentists dispose of mercury fillings, how schools look after disabled students, and more. GOP lawmakers have aided President Trump by using the 1996 Congressional Review Act to nullify eight different regulations that were enacted in the past 60 days, and are considering another measure that would weaken environmental regulations on mining companies. Trump has also signed an executive order freezing new regulations for 60 days and has ordered agencies to eliminate or weaken two existing regulations for each new rule they enact.

Seattle

Travel ban battle: The Trump administration this week suggested it wouldn't immediately appeal a ruling on its controversial

travel ban to the Supreme Court, and

would instead wait to see if the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals would revisit the case with a larger panel of judges. Last week, a three-judge panel on the 9th Circuit upheld a temporary nationwide halt to the ban, which suspends the nation's refugee program and travel from seven predominantly Muslim countries, until its constitutionality is decided. The ruling led Trump to tweet "SEE YOU IN COURT, THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE!" But a judge from the Seattle-based appeals court then requested that the case be submitted to a wider vote of 11 judges—also known as an en banc panel. The Department of Justice indicated it would wait to see if that request is granted before launching an appeal. Trump also said he was considering signing a new, more limited, immigration order.



Trump's tweet

Oroville, Calif.

Dam scare: Emergency crews raced to repair the Oroville Dam this week as it came close to collapse—threatening to swamp the homes of about



The overflowing spillway

188,000 residents in a catastrophic flood. Tens of thousands of people were evacuated when the dam's emergency spillway—designed to slowly release excess water from the Lake Oroville reservoir—developed a 200-foot-long, 30-foot-deep gash. With new storms approaching and the reservoir's water levels already high from record-setting rains, fears grew that the spillway could crumble and unleash a 30-foot wall of water on communities. Officials lifted the mandatory evacuation when the lake's water level dropped and the hole was plugged, but cautioned residents to stay alert. In 2005, environmental groups warned that the spillway was unsafe and should be armored with concrete; they were overruled by federal officials.

Washington, D.C.

\$21.6 billion wall: President Trump's promised border wall between the U.S. and Mexico will cost an estimated \$21.6 billion and take 3½ years to build, according to a leaked Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report. Trump had previously said the wall would cost \$8 billion; the latest estimate was calculated by a group commissioned by DHS Secretary John Kelly before he requests taxpayer funds from Congress. Under the DHS plan, fences or walls would be built to bridge the remaining 1,250 miles of the 2,000-mile border that currently lie uncovered—starting with sections near San Diego; El Paso, Texas; and the Rio Grande Valley. A growing number of Republican lawmakers oppose the project, arguing that a physical barrier would be too expensive and wouldn't stop illegal immigration. Trump tweeted that the price would come "WAY DOWN!" once he got involved "in the design."

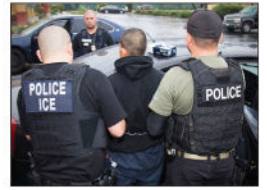


Fort Worth

Voter fraud conviction: A Mexican woman living legally in Texas was sentenced to eight years in prison last week for casting illegal votes in elections in 2012 and 2014. Rosa Maria Ortega, 37, was brought to the U.S. as an infant and later became a permanent resident, marrying an American with whom she had four children. Ortega applied to vote in the Fort Worth area, and said that since there was no box for "permanent resident," she checked off a box saying she was a citizen. Ortega said she then cast votes for two Republicans: Mitt Romney in 2012 and Attorney General Ken Paxton in 2014. Ortega said she didn't understand the difference between the rights granted to citizens and to legal residents. Her case marked a rare conviction for voter fraud, and her sentence was much harsher than a previous fraudulent ballot case in Fort Worth, in 2015, which ended with probation.

New York City, Los Angeles, San Antonio, Chicago, Atlanta

Deportation raids: At least 680 people have been arrested by federal immigration authorities conducting deportation raids across the country—detaining people at their workplaces and outside their homes and panicking immigrant communities in major cities. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said the raids were routine, and that many of those arrested had histories of violent crime. But a quarter of those swept up had no prior convictions. Immigration officials said most of those detained were classified as "criminal aliens"—which the Trump administration is now defining to include people who have entered the U.S. illegally or overstayed their visa. That could apply to all 11 million of the nation's undocumented immigrants. Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) said the Trump administration was trying to look "tough on criminals—when in reality, they're breaking up families."



Caught in Los Angeles

Washington, D.C.

Trump meets Bibi: President Trump backed away from America's commitment to the two-state solution this week as he held his first meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying that it was up to the Israelis and Palestinians to come to a peace deal that both parties like. "I'm looking at two states and one state," said Trump in a press conference, adding: "I could live with either one." Trump urged Netanyahu to "hold back on settlements for a little bit"—a reference to Israel's controversial construction work in the occupied territories. Netanyahu said a two-state solution was possible only if Palestinians recognized Israel's legitimacy and let Israel keep security control of the West Bank. Trump expressed confidence he could work out a peace deal despite the failure of previous presidents, saying, "It might be a bigger and better deal than people in this room even understand." A visibly uncomfortable Netanyahu responded, "Let's try."



Seeing eye to eye



Macron: Kremlin target

Paris

Russian meddling? French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron has been the target of “fake news” spread by Russian media, and the victim of thousands of cyberattacks by Moscow-backed hackers, his campaign manager said this week. Kremlin-run outlets RT and Sputnik News have recently claimed that

the election front-runner is supported by a “gay lobby” and is a “U.S. agent” for U.S. banking interests. The attacks began when polls showed the centrist Macron beating far-right leader Marine Le Pen in the election runoff. The Kremlin is believed to prefer Le Pen, who has accepted Russian financing for her National Front party and supports taking France out of the EU. “We want a strong Europe,” said Macron’s campaign manager, Richard Ferrand. “That’s why we are suffering attacks from [the] Russian state.” The election’s first round will be held in April.

Mexico City

Hitting U.S. in the wallet: Mexico could retaliate against any protectionist move by President Trump by boycotting U.S. corn. Mexican Sen. Armando Ríos Piter said this week that he would introduce a bill to require Mexican importers to source the food staple from Brazil and Argentina instead of the United States. Mexico buys more than a quarter of all exported American corn, and a boycott would hurt the U.S. agricultural industry. The bill is a “good way to tell [Trump] that this hostile relationship has consequences,” said Piter. U.S. farmers exported \$2.3 billion of corn to Mexico in 2015; in 1995, the year after the North American Free Trade Agreement was implemented, corn exports to Mexico were \$391 million.

Caracas

U.S. sanctions veep: Venezuela reacted with anger this week after the U.S. blacklisted Vice President Tareck El Aissami as an international drug trafficker. The designation allows the U.S. to freeze El Aissami’s assets and deny him access to American banks. The U.S. Treasury Department says that El Aissami, a former interior minister who became veep in January, was paid by Venezuelan “drug kingpin” Walid Makled García to coordinate shipments to Mexico’s brutal Los Zetas cartel. The sanction, the first against Venezuela under the Trump administration, had been in the works for months. “We shall not be distracted by these miserable provocations,” said El Aissami. “We will see this vile aggression dispelled.”



El Aissami

Orinoca, Bolivia

Museum of me: Bolivian President Evo Morales, the nation’s first indigenous leader, has opened a \$7 million museum dedicated to his own glory, paid for by Bolivian taxpayers. The Museum of the Democratic and Cultural Revolution, in Morales’ tiny hometown of Orinoca, displays the president’s childhood soccer jerseys and his many honorary doctorates, which were awarded to him although he never finished high school. The museum gives more fodder to the opposition, which has begun calling the president “Ego” Morales. Last year, Bolivia’s Ministry of Communications published a book of poems dedicated to the president. Morales is in his third and final term; he lost a referendum last year that would have allowed him to run for a fourth term in 2019.



Morales: On display

Paris

Riots over police brutality: In a bid to calm riots that have rocked the Paris suburbs for days, French President François Hollande has visited the hospital bed of a young black man allegedly raped by police. The 22-year-old youth worker, identified only as Théo, claimed he was brutalized during a routine stop-and-search operation, and doctors said he had severe internal injuries consistent with being sodomized by a police truncheon. Residents of Paris’ immigrant-dominated suburbs rallied in support of Théo, and dozens were arrested in clashes with police. The officer at the center of the case has been charged with rape and his three colleagues with assault. “Justice must be served,” Hollande said. National Front leader Marine Le Pen, meanwhile, called the rioters “scum” and launched a petition to support the police.

**Rio de Janeiro**

Troops on streets: Fearing a repeat of the anarchy that recently reigned in the southeastern state of Espírito Santo, Brazilian President Michel Temer has deployed 9,000 troops to Rio to keep order during Carnival in case of a police strike. Earlier this month, officers’ wives in Espírito Santo demonstrated outside police stations demanding higher wages for their spouses, and for eight days the cops refused to cross the picket lines. The result was a crime wave: Buses were burned, shops were looted, and dozens of people were killed. With the approach of the Carnival season, when thousands of Rio residents party in the streets for days, authorities can’t risk a breakdown of law and order.



Soldiers on patrol

Brussels

U.S. ultimatum to NATO: U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis warned NATO countries this week that if they don't draw up a plan to increase their defense spending by the end of the year, the U.S. will "moderate its commitment to the alliance." NATO requires all of its 28 members to spend at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense, but most fall short. "No longer can the American taxpayer carry a disproportionate share of the defense of Western values," Mattis told NATO defense ministers in

Mattis: Warning

Brussels. Mattis cited Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea as a reason for NATO to take its commitments seriously. The U.S., the U.K., and just three other allies currently meet the goal. Germany would have to nearly double its spending, to \$75 billion, to do so.

Moscow

Missile treaty violation: Russia has secretly deployed a new ground-launched cruise missile that violates a key arms control treaty, U.S. officials said this week. Moscow now has two battalions of the SSC-8 missiles, which appears to run counter to the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. That deal eliminated all U.S. and Soviet land-based, midrange nuclear-capable missiles like the ones deployed in or near Europe during the Cold War, which could have wiped out European capitals on short notice. "I take this news as evidence that the U.S. should build up its nuclear forces in Europe," said Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.). In the past two weeks, Russia has also positioned a spy ship outfitted with advanced intercept equipment off the U.S. East Coast, and Russian jets have buzzed a U.S. Navy warship in the Black Sea.

Aleppo, Syria

Assad gassed children: Syrian military helicopters dropped canisters of chlorine gas on civilian neighborhoods of Aleppo at least eight times last November and December, Human Rights Watch said in a detailed report this week. The forces of President Bashar al-Assad used the banned chemical weapon systematically, the report said, to drive civilians out of rebel-held areas where government troops were about to advance. At least nine civilians, including four children, died from the gas, and more than 200 were injured. Another research group, the Atlantic Council, released a study this week that said the Syrian government also targeted hospitals with cluster bombs.

Gaza

Hard-liner as leader: Hamas has named one of its most hard-line military commanders as its new leader in Gaza. Yehiya Sinwar, 55, was released from an Israeli jail in 2011 as part of a prisoner swap for captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. Sinwar had been serving four life sentences after being convicted in 1989 of a number



Sinwar: Murdered collaborators

of offenses, including involvement in the murder of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel. A founder of Hamas' military wing, Sinwar replaces Ismail Haniyeh, who is a candidate to become the Islamist terrorist group's supreme leader. Sinwar's ascension in Gaza is expected to herald a more aggressive posture from the impoverished Palestinian enclave.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kim brother assassinated: The older half-brother of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un was murdered this week in a brazen attack at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Kim Jong Nam, 45, was waiting for a flight when a woman sprayed his face with some kind of chemical and then another woman held a handkerchief over his nose and mouth. He died en route to a hospital. One woman bearing a Vietnamese passport has been arrested; she told police that four men approached her at the airport and asked her to spray Kim Jong Nam as part of a prank. "I did not know it was meant to kill him," she told police, according to Chinese media. After being passed over as heir to his father, Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Nam spent most of his time abroad, gambling, running up large bills, visiting his multiple girlfriends and children in China, and occasionally criticizing his brother's regime.



Kim Jong Nam

Harare, Zimbabwe

Caterpillars ravage crops: A plague of armyworms is threatening food crops across southern Africa. Experts from 16 nations met in Zimbabwe this week to discuss how to combat the invasive pest, the caterpillar of a moth from South America. In just eight weeks, the species has spread through South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Namibia, and Mozambique, destroying much



An armyworm attacks.

of the corn crop. "It has come in like one of the 10 plagues of the Bible," Zimbabwean farmer Ben Freeth told South Africa's *Sunday Times*. "It can lay up to 2,000 eggs, and its life cycle is very quick." The region is already suffering food shortages caused by drought. Last year, Zimbabwe said 4 million of its people were at risk of starvation.

Stevie's steely resolve



Stevie Nicks has survived more than four decades in rock 'n' roll, says Will Hodgkinson in *The Times* (U.K.). The 68-year-old singer-songwriter, who came to fame as lead singer for Fleetwood Mac, is attracting a whole new generation of fans as a solo artist, including Adele and Ariana Grande. "Maybe they like my dogged determination," Nicks speculates. "Christine McVie [the other woman in Fleetwood Mac] and I made a pact that we would never be treated like second-class citizens in a man's world. We would never be in a room with Eric Clapton or Robert Plant and be made to feel we weren't as good as them." Did those 1970s rock gods try to lord it over them? "Never. Because we were gorgeous, we were smart, we were a force of nature. It didn't matter if the room was filled with politicians or movie stars. When we walked in, the focus was on us. We made that happen. Now these young girls see me up on stage in chiffon and leggings, not looking ridiculous but age-appropriate, and they think, 'This is what I could do one day.'" Nicks has no intention of ever retiring. "A friend told me that when you retire, you get smaller. Small means old, so I fight it with a sword. I'll be on stage, dancing around, thinking, 'Now, let's see...how old am I again? 110?'"

The last surviving Nuremberg prosecutor

Benjamin Ferencz had a starring role in the murder trial of the century, said Nadia Khomami in *The Guardian* (U.K.). In 1947, the American immigrant served as chief U.S. prosecutor at Nuremberg, where 22 members of the Nazi extermination squads were convicted of atrocities against the Jews. Ferencz is 97, but he still remembers the grim details of their crimes. "One of my lead defendants, who killed 90,000, instructed his troops: 'If the mother is holding an infant to her breast, shoot the infant because the bullet will go through both of them, and you'll save ammunition.'" The defendants were picked on the basis of their rank and education. "But then the decisive absurdity: Why only 22? Well, there were only 22 seats in the dock. It was ridiculous, but it was symbolic. We were trying to show people how horrible it is if you take a leader who's very charismatic, and unquestioningly follow him, even to murdering little children. These were educated people; one was a father of five children. They were not all wild beasts with horns." As a U.S. soldier, Ferencz was present for the liberation of several concentration camps. "It's unimaginable. Bodies lying around; you can't tell if they're dead or alive, pleading with their eyes for help. It was as if I had peered into hell."



The truth about Hiddlestiff

For a brief moment in 2016, Tom Hiddleston was one-half of the most talked-about couple in the world, said Taffy Brodesser-Akner in *GQ*. In June, the British actor embarked on a whirlwind affair with music star Taylor Swift. "Hiddlestiff" became a media sensation; they were photographed canoodling in restaurants, taking romantic walks on the beach, and—on one memorable occasion—frolicking in the ocean on July 4 while Hiddleston sported a now-infamous "I ♥ T.S." tank top. Three months later, the relationship was over. Tabloids speculated about whether the whole thing—including the tank top—was one grand publicity stunt. Not so, says a hurt Hiddleston. "Of course it was real." As for the tank top, "we were playing a game and I slipped and hurt my back. And I wanted to protect the graze and said, 'Does anyone have a T-shirt?' And one of her friends pulled out the tank top. 'And we all laughed about it. It was a joke. Among friends.'" In the end, Hiddleston doesn't care what other people think. "I only know the woman I met. Taylor is an amazing woman. She's generous and kind and lovely, and we had the best time." The problem was the cameras and the gossip. "A relationship always takes work. A relationship in the limelight..."

Gossip

■ **George and Amal Clooney** are expecting twins in June—and the actor's mother reveals they'll be welcoming a boy and a girl. "It will be one of each!" says Nina Clooney. "How marvelous!" Long one of Hollywood's most eligible bachelors, Clooney, 55, wed the British human rights lawyer, 39, in Venice in September 2014. The Oscar winner learned of his wife's pregnancy last fall while directing close friend Matt Damon in a film—and couldn't wait to share the news. "He pulled me aside on the set and, I mean, I was so happy for him, I almost started crying," Damon said. Clooney had said for years he

had no intention to marry or have kids, but then he met Amal. "All I know is that it sort of changed everything in terms of what I thought my future—my personal future—was going to be," he said.

■ **Jackson family matriarch Katherine Jackson** last week filed a lawsuit against her nephew and longtime caretaker, alleging he subjected her to years of elder abuse and bullying. A judge granted Jackson, 86, a restraining order against Trent Lamar Jackson, 52, after she claimed he repeatedly stole money from her bedroom, accessed her bank accounts without permission, and isolated her from her family. "Trent has made it his business to regulate Mrs. Jackson's interactions with her children—screening phone calls, not relaying messages, not allowing privacy during visits," the

lawsuit alleges. Katherine has been staying in London with her daughter Janet, and "is afraid to go home with Trent there. She fears he could physically harm her," the lawsuit claims. Trent denies the allegations. "All I do is pay Mrs. Jackson's bills," he says. "That was my job—to be her driver, her provider." A hearing is slated for March 1.

■ **George Michael's** family has banned the late superstar's lover, Fadi Fawaz, from attending his funeral. "The family hates him," says Michael's cousin, Andros Georgiou. "Everyone basically thinks he's a gold digger." Michael's funeral is on hold until authorities establish an official cause of death. Fawaz, 43, found the 53-year-old singer dead in his Oxfordshire home on Christmas Day. Authorities have yet to release Michael's body, pending the results of toxicology tests.

NAFTA's legacy: Who won, who lost

The trade deal many Americans blame for job losses has a complicated record of success and failure.

What did NAFTA do?

The North American Free Trade Agreement was a 1994 accord between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico that lifted tariffs on most products moving between the three nations. It was also the first trade agreement to include protections for intellectual property. NAFTA had bipartisan backing, having been negotiated by a Republican president—George H.W. Bush—and signed by his Democratic successor, Bill Clinton, after passing the Senate 61-38. But it has also met stiff opposition across the political spectrum.

The nascent agreement was a flashpoint in the 1992 presidential race (see box); a quarter-century later, NAFTA and other free-trade deals fueled a wave of populist anger among voters who blamed outsourcing for the major decline in U.S. manufacturing jobs. During the 2016 campaign, NAFTA was flogged relentlessly by Democratic Sen. Bernie Sanders and by Republican Donald Trump, who called it “the single worst trade deal ever approved in this country.” Now President Trump says he will fulfill his campaign promise to renegotiate the pact.

What was the rationale of the agreement?

There were several goals. The U.S. wanted to bring Mexico's developing economy into the first world, on the premise that creating jobs there would curb illegal immigration. As then-Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari put it, his country would “export goods, not people.” For the U.S. and Canada, meanwhile, Mexico was seen as fertile ground for exports and investment. President Clinton predicted that free trade would boost the economies of all three countries. “NAFTA means jobs,” he said. “American jobs, and good-paying American jobs. If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't support this agreement.”

So how did it work out?

The broad consensus is that NAFTA has a mixed legacy. A 2015 report by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service said the deal “did not cause the huge job losses feared by the critics or the large economic gains predicted by supporters,” and called NAFTA's net effect on the U.S. economy “relatively modest.” Trade between the three signatories has grown considerably, from about \$290 billion in 1993 to more than \$1.1 trillion last year. Supporters say the agreement has helped employ 14 million Americans in fields such as retail, finance, and agriculture, and provided cheaper goods to U.S. consumers. “About 5 million American jobs are directly tied to trade with Mexico, and 9 million are tied to trade with Canada,” says University of Calgary economist Eugene Beaulieu. But critics argue that the downsides of NAFTA and other trade deals outweigh the benefits.



Trucks waiting to cross the Mexican border with goods

What downsides?

In the two decades since NAFTA, the balance of trade between the U.S. and Mexico flip-flopped, from a \$1.7 billion American surplus to a \$49.2 billion deficit. Analysts such as Robert Scott of the Economic Policy Institute estimate that nearly 700,000 U.S. workers lost good jobs as a result, mostly in manufacturing; those who kept their jobs saw wages flatline, at least partly because of Mexican competition. “The most-affected workers were college dropouts working in industries that depended heavily on tariff protections in place prior to NAFTA,” says

University of Virginia economist John McLaren. But economists say that NAFTA alone didn't cause their pain, citing the rise of China as an economic powerhouse, the 2008 financial collapse, and—above all, perhaps—automation and new technology that rendered many 20th-century jobs obsolete.

Did NAFTA help curb illegal immigration?

Clearly, the deal hasn't delivered on that promise: The number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. quadrupled after NAFTA's signing, from 3 million in 1994 to 12 million in 2007. The impact on Mexico's economic growth and wages also has not met expectations; while the country probably gained about 600,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector, it lost at least 2 million more in agriculture, thanks to cheap imports of U.S. corn and other produce. With their economy also weighed down by competition from China and a range of domestic factors, “jobless Mexicans migrated to the U.S. at an unprecedented rate of half a million a year after NAFTA,” says Laura Carlsen of the nonprofit Center for International Policy. Since the Great Recession of 2008, however, the net influx has been negative, with more Mexican nationals returning to their home country than arriving.

What does Trump plan to do?

He's floated several options, including threatening to pull out of NAFTA altogether and impose a 35 percent tariff on Mexican goods. It's likely he'll first try to renegotiate the deal—but he's been vague about the changes he'd seek. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups fear that radical revisions could wreck the complex interdependency of the three countries' economies and imperil millions of jobs. Most economists agree NAFTA could use updating; one popular proposal is to require Mexico to increase wages, labor standards, and environmental rules, which would lessen the advantages of outsourcing. But most economists do not believe that changing NAFTA—or scrapping it—will usher in a Rust Belt renaissance. “Far more jobs have been automated than outsourced,” says economist Zachary Karabell. “Most of the jobs that disappeared over the past decades can never exist again. Period.”

That ‘giant sucking sound’

Third-party candidate H. Ross Perot roiled the 1992 presidential election with populist economic rhetoric—including fierce opposition to NAFTA. Like Trump, the Texan was a blunt billionaire who won a large following by advocating protectionist trade policies. Perot, now 86, created one of the more memorable moments in the annals of presidential debates in an attack on NAFTA. “We have got to stop sending jobs overseas,” he said, warning that if business owners could move their factories to Mexico and “pay a dollar an hour for labor,” the resulting loss of American jobs would create “a giant sucking sound.” Whether Perot's zinger proved prescient is hotly debated, but his message resonated: He drew 18.9 percent of the popular vote and, most experts agree, enough conservative support to help Democrat Bill Clinton defeat incumbent Republican George H.W. Bush.

A startling disregard for security

Philip Bump
WashingtonPost.com

During the presidential campaign, Donald Trump relentlessly criticized Hillary Clinton for “jeopardizing national security” by using a private email server, said Philip Bump. But now that he’s president, his “attitude toward security seems a bit more lax.” When Trump received word about North Korea’s launch of a ballistic missile last weekend, the president was in a crowded dining room at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The two leaders continued their conversation right at their table in a room full of other diners, as a singer crooned in the background. At one point, aides used the camera lights on their cellphones to light up documents on the table—a mind-boggling security breach, since foreign hackers can easily turn on cellphone cameras and microphones to snoop. Trump seemed to be making calls during the crisis on his old, insecure Android phone, which experts say would be extremely easy to hack. To top it all off, one of Trump’s paying guests later posted on Facebook a photo of himself posing with the presidential aide who carries the “nuclear football” used to authorize an attack when the president is away from the White House. How’s that for sound security procedures?

How to save the white working class

Kevin Williamson
NationalReview.com

If we want to help the white working class, said Kevin Williamson, we have to persuade them to leave dying rural communities in Appalachia and the Rust Belt “and seek better lives for themselves elsewhere.” This idea offends “some of my friends on the Right,” because of a sentimental nostalgia for the virtues of small-town America. But it was only by moving out of crumbling inner cities and escaping their awful schools and social chaos that “the ambitious poor” created the black and Hispanic middle classes. “Mobility works.” Despite what protectionists tell you, no federal policy can bring back factories and revive manufacturing in small-town America. No company will heavily invest to build factories in blighted communities with few skilled workers. “If the work is not coming to the people, then the people have to come to the work.” How can government help? Republicans should adopt policies that encourage the creation of affordable housing in and around thriving cities; more immediately, they should use tax credits and unemployment benefits to “pay people to move” to where the jobs are. We can’t revive devastated small towns, but we can try to make sure that for those who want better lives, “geography is not destiny.”

The biggest threat to American lives

Nicholas Kristof
The New York Times

In his all-cap tweets, President Trump is insisting that the biggest threat Americans face is Muslim immigrants, said Nicholas Kristof. But since 1975, “terrorists born in the seven nations in Trump’s travel ban killed zero people in America.” And since 9/11, Islamic terrorists have killed a total of 123 people on U.S. soil. That’s tragic, but as a matter of perspective, consider this: Over the past four decades, guns have claimed 1.34 million American lives—about as many as in all wars in U.S. history. Every year on average, more Americans die falling off ladders, or slipping in bathtubs, or falling downstairs, than are killed by terrorists. Yet while Trump is “berserk” on the risks posed by a small number of Syrian refugees, he wants to relax sensible laws on a far greater threat: firearms. The president has vowed to get rid of gun-free zones in schools, and has suggested Americans should carry weapons so they can be ready to shoot back at terrorists. If he paid any attention to reality, he’d know that far more Americans are killed by armed husbands than terrorists. Loosening our already lax gun laws while banning Muslims will only result in “more school shootings, more shattered families, and more lives lost.”

Viewpoint

“Putin’s Russia is our adversary and moral opposite. It is committed to the destruction of the postwar, rule-based world order built on American leadership and the primacy of our political and economic values. There is no placating Putin. There is no transforming him from a gangster to a responsible statesman. Previous administrations have tried and failed not because they didn’t try hard enough, but because Putin wants no part of it. He rejects our values and our vision of a free, stable, peaceful, prosperous international order”

Sen. John McCain in USA Today

It must be true... I read it in the tabloids

■ Leslie Ray “Popeye” Charping of Galveston, Texas, evidently will not be missed by his family. After Charping died of cancer at 75 his survivors wrote in an online obituary that he’d lived “29 years longer than expected and much longer than he deserved.” His hobbies, his family wrote, were “being abusive to his family, expediting trips to heaven for the beloved family pets, and fishing.” His life “served no other obvious purpose.” In life, Charping twice pleaded guilty to assault—including one incident in which he poured hot liquid on his wife.

■ Ronnie and Sherron Bridges of Quinlan, Texas, have a pet 2,500-pound buffalo that has the run of their house. The bison’s name is Wild Thing, and he’s lived as the couple’s pet since they sold



the rest of their herd when he was a calf. Wild Thing, 11, roams freely through the house and eats his breakfast at the kitchen table. “I’m surprised he doesn’t do more damage with his 400-pound head,” Ronnie said. “He has a barn and land to walk about in, but he loves coming in to watch TV; he likes fast-moving stuff, so doesn’t much care for the news.”

■ A pair of drunken Canadian men were arrested after allegedly passing through a McDonald’s drive-through on a couch. Police in New Brunswick flashed their lights when they saw an ATV towing the couch past the take-out window, and the four-wheel vehicle sped off, “with the sofa still attached,” a police spokesman said. The two men tumbled off the couch; the ATV driver got away. The couch surfers face charges for their risky ride, but the police spokesman noted they were wearing helmets, “so obviously safety was somewhat important.”



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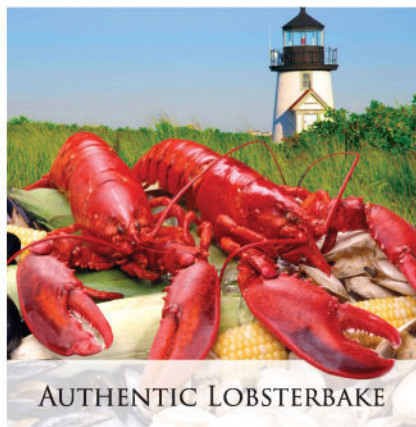
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POLAND

Why we are still choking on smog

Marek Jozefiak
Euractiv.com

A choking Poland has finally realized it has a coal problem, said Marek Jozefiak. The smog that settled over almost the whole nation throughout January “came as a huge surprise.” The cause of this pollution is obvious: the dirty coal that Poles use to heat their homes. Every year, we burn some 11 million tons of the stuff in inefficient domestic stoves, and even before the smog wave we were suffering the consequences of our coal addiction. Poland is home to 33 of the European Union’s 50 most polluted cities, including seven of the top 10, and some 47,000 Poles die prematurely each

year because of air pollution. Belatedly, the ruling Law and Justice party is scrambling to enact some regulations to bring us in line with our neighbors, such as emissions standards for new heating stoves and rules on the quality of coal sold to the housing sector. But regulations aren’t enough. We need to replace our coal stoves with greener, more efficient alternatives. Yet that would require taking on the coal industry, which the government won’t dare do, because coal miners are among its most enthusiastic supporters. Poles seeking fresh air will have to wait “for the wind of political change.”

IRELAND

Our mini-Trumps in Kerry

Oliver Callan
The Irish Times

Ireland has long had its own version of the Trump family, said Oliver Callan. Some 40 years ago in County Kerry, disgruntled voters threw their support behind “a disruptive business tycoon with a big mouth.” Elected to the local council in 1974 and the national legislature two decades later, Jackie Healy-Rae—owner of a construction equipment rental firm—went on to mix business with politics and bumbled into numerous conflicts of interest. Like Trump, Jackie, who died in 2014, had “anti-immigrant, climate-skeptical, barmy-policy, anti-PC ideas.” His sons, Michael and Danny, proudly keep his legacy alive. Michael, a legislator and former reality TV star, has pushed “insane ideas” such as offering drunk-driving

permits for farmers, and has called refugees a bunch of “freeloaders, blackguards, and hoodlums.” Like Trump, the Healy-Raes have a talent for manipulating the media. Broadcasters always rush to interview Danny, also a lawmaker, whenever he rants about climate change. But reporters consistently fail to remind their audience that the family’s businesses include cattle farms and gas stations—“interests that would suffer if Ireland took climate action on fossil fuels and methane emissions.” There is admittedly one big difference between America’s and Ireland’s political dynasties: Unlike the Trumps, the Healy-Rae clan “doesn’t have any nuclear launch codes.” So while Kerry may suffer, the rest of us can laugh.

Europe: Sending back the asylum seekers

European leaders were so smug in their condemnation of President Trump’s ban on migrants from seven mostly-Muslim countries, said Frédéric Bobin and Jean-Pierre Stroobants in *Le Monde* (France). “We don’t believe in walls or bans,” EU Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini proclaimed piously. Yet right now, the European Union is constructing a virtual wall against refugees. Having blocked one major migration route to Europe through last year’s deal with Turkey—under which Turkey agreed to house asylum seekers from Syria and elsewhere in exchange for cash and other perks—the EU is now cutting off a second key route. At a meeting in Malta this month, the bloc agreed to pay some \$210 million to the Libyan government to seize and turn back the boats full of migrants that sail from its shore. Those desperate migrants, most from North Africa, are to be herded back into squalid camps inside Libya, where in theory their asylum claims will be assessed. It’s a farce. “How can Libya evaluate refugee status when it is not even a signatory to the Geneva Conventions?” Worse, the Libyan government exists “only on paper,” so its camps are run by militias. Refugees there are at risk of violence, rape, and starvation.

“The human rights situation in Libya is truly catastrophic,” said the *Malta Independent* (Malta) in an editorial, and it is unconscionable that Europe would condemn people to rot there. “Hypothetically, blocking people in Libya would prevent them from drowning” as they try to cross the Mediterranean to Europe, Doctors



Demonstrating against deportations in Germany

Without Borders tweeted. “In reality, it would condemn them to slow death.” Yet Europe has chosen to “shrink into a state of protectionism”—just like Trump’s America.

That’s because German Chancellor Angela Merkel is desperate, said Silke Kersting in *Der Handelsblatt* (Germany). Germany took in nearly 1 million asylum seekers in 2015 and some 300,000 more last year, and the backlash is growing. “Uncontrolled immigration must be stopped to prevent a further strengthening of right-wing

populism in Europe.” This year will see elections in the Netherlands, France, and Germany, and all three countries have strong and growing far-right parties. Already, Merkel has changed her rhetoric from welcoming to stern, said *The Times* (U.K.). “For the next few months, what matters most is repatriation, repatriation, and more repatriation,” she said last week. She has set up deportation centers near airports, to quickly process and deport new arrivals who don’t qualify for asylum. To those who arrived in the human flood of 2015 and have little chance of qualifying, Merkel is offering cash incentives to self-deport.

Some migrants must go, certainly, said Heribert Prantl in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (Germany). But a policy that focuses solely on deportation “will have bitter consequences.” Europe must remember the golden rule: “Are we treating these people as we would like to be treated if we ourselves were refugees?” Clearly, condemning asylum seekers to Libyan hellholes fails that test.

How they see us: Japan's mixed emotions on Trump

Well, that was cozy, said Koya Jibiki in the *Nikkei Asian Review*. President Trump showed Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe an “unprecedented level of hospitality” during his visit to the U.S. last week. Trump “held, shook, pulled, and patted Abe’s hand for 19 seconds” at a White House meeting, a bizarre ritual that the U.S. press dubbed “super-awkward.” And the effusions just kept coming. Trump offered Abe a seat on Air Force One, a “highly unusual” honor for a foreign head of state, and jetted him off to the president’s personal resort, Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla. The two dined and played golf and even bonded over a security crisis when news came at dinner that North Korea had tested a ballistic missile. “It was like a honeymoon,” Japan “got almost everything it wanted,” at least on security issues, said Mikio Sugeno, also in the *Review*. Trump recognized the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, which China claims as its own, to be Japanese territory, and he thanked Abe for hosting U.S. forces in Japan.



Abe and Trump: A very friendly handshake

Abe should be careful, said the *Mainichi Shimbun* in an editorial. Japan built its security around the U.S. alliance because America was the international leader in defending global “values of freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and the rule of law.” The Trump administration, however, “does not necessarily attach weight to such conventional values.” Trump has already pulled the U.S. out of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact and now plans to negotiate bilateral deals. Why? Because he

thinks it will be easier for the U.S. to wield its “overwhelming economic power” during two-way talks and batter the other country into making valuable concessions. Trump’s America is not out to lead the free world, but to grab all it can for itself.

What is most “worrisome” is that Trump doesn’t understand that free trade benefits all countries, said *The Japan Times*. Trump’s campaign-trail rants against Japan—that it manipulates its currency and charges high tariffs on U.S. products—were

simply wrong. He seems to have formed his opinion about Japan’s economy in the 1980s and hasn’t updated it since. During the visit, Abe patiently got Trump up to speed, explaining how in 2015 Japanese automakers created some 1.5 million jobs in the U.S. by producing millions of vehicles in American factories. But “it’s not clear whether Abe succeeded in correcting the U.S. president’s distorted views on trade issues.”

Nor, frankly, is it clear whether Trump can be trusted, said the *Asahi Shimbun*. Abe, preoccupied with China and its “high-handed maritime advances” in the South China Sea, where it has been militarizing its man-made islands, focused on getting Trump’s pledge to defend the Senkaku Islands. Yet Trump “also has the option up his sleeve of making a deal with China” at Japan’s expense. Japan may do better to start “deepening multilateral and multilayered ties” with other partners. After all, Trump’s honeymoons don’t tend to result in lasting marriages.

ZIMBABWE

Teaching our children black pride

Joram Nyathi
The Herald

Zimbabweans have internalized racism so much that we no longer recognize it, said Joram Nyathi. Howls of outrage have greeted the introduction of a new school curriculum by Education Minister Lazarus Dokora of the ruling ZANU-PF party. Critics are calling it jingoistic because it requires students to join in “mass displays” and to take a pledge of allegiance to the state. Apparently these critics want to keep us forever as “Little England,” our students mindlessly parroting the history of our former colonial master. Zimbabwean history, included in the new curriculum, is not just “ZANU-PF propaganda,” as the opposition claims. It is the

story of our land, our people, our uprising. Children must be taught the importance of the great land reform, which reclaimed Zimbabwean farmland from the white usurpers. They must learn to “appreciate the dignity of labor and honesty, to use their brains and hands to produce rather than buy.” The old, colonialist curriculum told them they should want jobs, not land—that they should be satisfied with being paid servants to others rather than their own masters. Shouldn’t we give up “our urge to be white,” not least because “it will never be required”? It’s time for Zimbabweans to start feeling proud of their black, African heritage.

CHINA

A good sign from Trump on Taiwan

Shen Dingli
China Daily

Donald Trump is growing into his role as U.S. president, said Shen Dingli. His overtures toward Taiwan, which China claims as its own, and his irresponsible threats to use Taiwanese independence as a bargaining chip in trade talks with Beijing, are now at an end. In a cordial phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week, Trump at last admitted that “he was wrong.” He conceded what six previous U.S. presidents also acknowledged: that the island of Taiwan is an integral part of China and the one-China policy is a prerequisite for U.S.-Chinese relations. It is encouraging that Trump has demonstrated that “he is willing to learn and adjust his stance when necessary.”

Now he knows that China “will not bargain on its core legitimate interests”—but that doesn’t mean it won’t negotiate at all. Cooperation with China can help Trump achieve his dream of making America great. The “growing Chinese middle class” wants to buy “high-quality U.S. goods,” so mutual trade will help both economies. The only thing that could prevent a happy outcome would be Trump’s failure to apply his newfound wisdom “to other contentious issues between the two countries,” such as Chinese sovereignty over much of the South China Sea. If he follows “a constructive, not obstructive approach,” both of our countries can prosper.

Noted

■ More than 2 million of the nation's roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants live in just two metropolitan areas—New York and Los Angeles—according to a new analysis of 2014 Census Bureau data from the Pew Research Center. About 61 percent of the undocumented live in 20 metropolitan areas. *FiveThirtyEight.com*

■ The number of Americans without health insurance dropped from 17.3 percent in 2013 to 10.9 percent last year, with some of the biggest drops occurring in states that voted for Donald Trump. The uninsured rate in Kentucky dropped from 20.4 to 7.8 percent; in Arkansas, from 22.5 to 10.2 percent; and in West Virginia from 17.6 to 6.1 percent, a new the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being analysis found. *New York Post*

■ Press Secretary Sean Spicer's combative daily briefings with the White House press corps are pulling in an average of 4.3 million TV viewers, according to data from Nielsen. Audiences across Fox News, MSNBC, and CNN surge by an average of 10 percent when Spicer comes on screen. *The New York Times*

■ The nation has 84,000 dams, and their average age is 52 years. At least 15,500 dams would cause deaths if they failed, and one in five lacks emergency action plans. *USA Today*

■ Almost half of people in their early 20s receive help from their parents in paying the rent. On average, parents contribute \$3,000 a year to their grown children's housing costs. *The New York Times*



If there were any doubts that President Trump would use the White House to promote “the business interests of himself and his family,” said Sheelah Kolhatkar in *NewYorker.com*, those doubts have been laid to rest. Trump last week publicly scolded Nordstrom for dropping Ivanka Trump's fashion line because of poor sales, tweeting that the retailer had treated his daughter “so unfairly.” Then White House counselor Kellyanne Conway jumped in, urging *Fox & Friends* TV viewers, “Go buy Ivanka's stuff. I'm going to give a free commercial here.” This “stunning promotional message” broke a rule barring U.S. officials from endorsing products, and the Office of Government Ethics recommended disciplinary action. Trump, however, was reported to be delighted that Conway defended Ivanka. Apparently, he feels that winning the election gave him a mandate to engage in “overt profiteering” and “enrich his family.”

“The White House isn't even pretending to care about ethics rules anymore,” said Josh Voorhees in *Slate.com*. Ivanka has supposedly removed herself from day-to-day operations at the Trump Organization and “distanced herself from her eponymous fashion brand.” But this fiasco demonstrates that—like her father—her



Now on sale!

name “remains firmly and inextricably linked with both the family business and many of the things it sells.” That's why the #GrabYourWallet boycott of Ivanka's products is so important, says Jamie Peck in *The Guardian* (U.K.). Her campaign appearances had been “paying off at the bank;” during the Republican National Convention, Ivanka advertised the pink shift dress she wore and “it sold out in a matter of hours.” Business boomed. But as Trump's outrageous policies and behavior fueled the boycott, “stores began dropping Ivanka's wares” or giving them less prominence, from budget T.J. Maxx to posh Neiman Marcus—and now, Nordstrom. This victory shows what can happen when liberals stay “angry and engaged.”

The irony is that Ivanka is “the one friend they may have in this new White House,” said Nolan Finley in *The Detroit News*. She and her husband, Jared Kushner, reportedly killed an attempt by Trump's more conservative inner circle to rescind an executive order on LGBT rights.

Ivanka also has pushed her dad on parental leave and wage equality for women, and may be a lone voice in the White House arguing for the reality of climate change. Liberals, though, “can't see past their blind fury” to realize that Ivanka is “a possible ally.”

Trump vs. the courts: It's war

President Trump “has declared war on the judiciary,” said Dahlia Lithwick in *Slate.com*. When U.S. District Judge James Robart suspended his controversial executive order on immigration and refugees, the president blasted the “so-called judge,” claimed the “ridiculous” ruling put the nation's security at risk, and said the judiciary will be to blame if terrorists strike. Then, even before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel also ruled against him, Trump said even “a bad high school student” would understand why the Constitution gave him sole, unfettered authority to determine immigration policy. Even Trump's Supreme Court pick, Judge Neil Gorsuch, let it be known he found these dangerous attacks on judicial independence “demoralizing” and “disheartening.” By questioning the very legitimacy of the judicial branch, said Martha Minow and Robert Post in *The Boston Globe*, Trump seems to be suggesting that the rule of law is “simply one more enemy to be smashed.”

Sorry to break it to you, said Salena Zito in the *Washington Examiner*, but presidents have been publicly complaining about the courts since our republic's founding. FDR, for example, made a failed bid to “pack” the nation's highest

court with favorable jurists; President Obama denounced the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling on campaign finance during his 2010 State of the Union address—as many of the justices sat stone-faced in front of him. Where was the liberal outrage then? Trump's “childish” tweets attacking Robart represent nothing more than a “tactical” error, said Andrew McCarthy in *NationalReview.com*. “Taking a swipe at a judge is never a smart move”—especially one who is “going to continue presiding over your case.”

If you think Trump was harmlessly venting, said Aaron Blake in *WashingtonPost.com*, consider what White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller said in several TV interviews last Sunday. Miller imperiously declared that the judiciary “has taken far too much power,” and that “our opponents” would soon see that Trump's authority on national security issues “will not be questioned.” What? Miller claimed that *anything* Trump does to protect national security is “inherently constitutional” and is not subject to judicial oversight. That really is a “massive claim to power”—one that seriously undermines our tripartite system of checks and balances. Is anyone—liberal or conservative—comfortable with that?

New England Patriots: A White House boycott

"The champagne had not even dried in the Patriots locker room" when New England tight end Martellus Bennett threw cold water on his team's Super Bowl party, said Dave Zirin in *The Nation.com*. That night, Bennett announced "there was no way" he would attend the NFL team's celebratory photo-op at the Trump White House. Five of Bennett's teammates have since joined his boycott. "I don't feel welcome in that house. I'll leave it at that," said running back LeGarrette Blount. The White House boycott is even more striking given that the Patriots are considered "Trump's team": The president is friends with quarterback Tom Brady, coach Bill Belichick, and owner Robert Kraft. But who can blame the boycotters? Why would they want to legitimize a president who routinely has portrayed black America as ridden with crime and poverty and appointed Steve Bannon, "a white supremacist, as his 'strategic adviser'?"



Bennett, Blount: Not going



No one's asking the Patriots to endorse the president or his policies, said Mitch Albom in the *Detroit Free Press*. Indeed, given that most presidential elections run close to 50-50, half the athletes who have visited the White House over the years probably didn't like the person

occupying it. But those other athletes managed to respect a unifying tradition, rather than turn it into a divisive political statement. The boycotters should be ashamed of themselves, said Joe Fitzgerald in the *Boston Herald*. Their Super Bowl victory created a feeling of "togetherness" among their rabid fans—"pro-life zealots and gay couples" who sit side by side every week, "hooting and hollering as one, political differences notwithstanding." Why spoil that?

"The Patriots are hardly the first athletes to boycott a D.C. victory lap," said Michele Gorman in *Newsweek.com*. Boston Bruins goaltender Tim Thomas and Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk both shunned Obama White House ceremonies for political reasons—as did the Patriots' own Tom Brady. Brady claimed he had a "prior family commitment," only to spend the day shopping at the Apple Store. Don't blame the boycotting Patriots for politicizing these ceremonies, said Roy S. Johnson in *AL.com*. Blame Trump for making politics so divisive that some athletes can't stomach the thought of shaking his hand. Seeing one's team at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue used to be innocent fun; now that it's no longer so, maybe "it's time to give this particular ritual a rest."

'The Resistance': A liberal Tea Party?

"It's beginning to look a lot like 2009," said Kate Zernike in *The New York Times*. "That year, horrified by a new president," conservative activists took to the streets "under the Tea Party banner" to resist Barack Obama's agenda—marching against government bailouts and storming meetings held by congressional Democrats in protest of Obamacare. The powerful grassroots movement swept House Republicans to victory in the 2010 midterms, remaking the political landscape. Eight years later, said Vanessa Williamson in *CNN.com*, liberals are borrowing from the Tea Party playbook to mount their own resistance to President Trump. Constituents have overloaded congressional phone lines with complaints about Trump's Cabinet picks, while five Republican lawmakers have been driven from rowdy town hall events packed with people protesting Obamacare repeal and other Trump policies. "Could this be the Left's Tea Party moment?"

It certainly looks that way, said Paul Kane in *The Washington Post*. But can this new liberal Tea Party build into a significant and lasting movement without dividing the party? Let's not forget that conservative activists directed their rage against Republicans too—pushing out establish-

ment "cucks" such as Virginia Rep. Eric Cantor in favor of extremist candidates. The Left's grassroots movement is already showing its own cannibalistic tendencies, said Molly Ball in *The Atlantic.com*. Progressive idol Bernie Sanders was attacked by activists for merely suggesting he could work with Trump on certain shared goals, such as job creation. But while "the Tea Party terrorized Republicans," it also strengthened them: A year after a crushing electoral defeat, the GOP "won seven Senate seats and took the House in a wave." Democrats would surely accept some infighting if it sparked an electoral turnaround.

If "The Resistance" means tacking to their party's far-left fringe, said Robert Tracinski in *The Federalist.com*, it will prove Democrats learned absolutely nothing from the 2016 election. They lost to Donald Trump largely because they abandoned the white working class. To win back Middle America, liberals have to focus their activist energy on economic populism—rather than stage polarizing marches about racism, LGBT rights, and abortion, as they now seem determined to do. Liberals may be building a new movement, but it may "throw their own party even further out of the balance with the rest of the country."

Wit & Wisdom

"Greeting cards routinely tell us everybody deserves love. No. Everybody deserves clean water. Not everybody deserves love all the time."

Zadie Smith, quoted in *Cosmopolitan.com*

"The main business of a lawyer is to take the romance, the mystery, the irony, the ambiguity out of everything he touches."

Antonin Scalia, quoted in *The Economist.com*

"Any man more right than his neighbors constitutes a majority of one."

Henry David Thoreau, quoted in *Politico.com*

"If there's anything that a study of history tells us, it's that things get can get worse, and also that when people thought they were in end times, they weren't."

Neil Gaiman, quoted in *The New York Times*

"The man who says his wife can't take a joke forgets that she took him."

Oscar Wilde, quoted in *Heavy.com*

"Nobody outside of a baby carriage or a judge's chamber believes in an unprejudiced point of view."

Lillian Hellman, quoted in *Hyperallergic.com*

"Do not fear what has been blown up. If you must, fear the unexploded."

Poet Suheir Hammad, quoted in *HuffingtonPost.com*

Poll watch

■ **65%** of Americans want to give priority to the development of alternative energy sources, compared with **27%** who prefer expanded production of fossil fuel sources.

Pew Research

■ **43%** of Americans approve of the job President Trump is doing, while **53%** disapprove. If voters could choose, **52%** would rather have Barack Obama back. **46%** already want to see Trump impeached.

Public Policy Polling

Internet: The end of net neutrality?

Well, that didn't take long, said **Daniel Cooper** in *Engadget.com*. It was obvious when President Trump picked Ajit Pai, an avowed opponent of internet regulation, to head the Federal Communications Commission last month that an assault on year-old net neutrality rules was in the pipeline. But just two weeks into his tenure, Pai began to undermine net neutrality's most basic principle, namely that all internet data be treated equally. In particular, he has scrapped a major investigation into "zero rating" services offered by AT&T and Verizon. The companies allow customers to stream unlimited TV shows and movies from their own branded services, like AT&T-owned DirecTV Now and Verizon's Go90, without counting that content against mobile data caps. That arrangement is at least a violation of the spirit of net neutrality, if not of the law. Once a company can give preference to some content over others, the internet is no longer "a free and open market."

"It's time to face facts: Net neutrality's as good as dead," said **Lance Ulanoff** in *Mashable.com*. The FCC was one of the last checks on mega conglomerates like Comcast and Verizon, which are consolidating control over not only how we access the internet but also what content is available on it. You can fully expect broadband and wireless providers to start squeezing out competitors by giving preferential treatment to their own content.



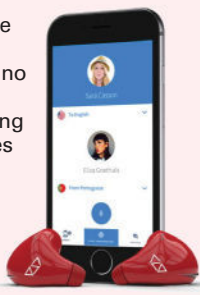
Your favorite show could soon stream slower.

Verizon, for example, could make AOL sites load faster than their competitors' sites. Comcast could offer free streaming of NBC shows on your mobile at extra-fast speeds, while charging Netflix extra fees to stream *Stranger Things* at slower speeds—a cost Netflix would most likely pass on to consumers. Small and independent content providers, meanwhile, would struggle to survive in the new pay-to-play system. "This will be our new net reality."

That's why we need to fight hard for net neutrality, said **Troy Wolverton** in the San Jose *Mercury News*. The current rules are the result of years of tireless lobbying efforts by activists, technology companies like Google, and concerned citizens. "All three are going to be needed to defend the rules now that they are in place." President Trump and the FCC aren't going to destroy the internet, said **Hiawatha Bray** in *The Boston Globe*. The real problem is that the big internet providers have "near-monopolies" in many places, meaning they can abuse their power. One glimmer of hope: New broadband technologies like 5G wireless internet and AT&T's AirGig, which "piggybacks on the electric wires already hanging between utility poles," could create so much new competition that net neutrality laws would be rendered moot. "When consumers can pick from two or three providers, none would dare push us around."

Innovation of the week

A simple earpiece "promises to boldly go where no gadget has gone before—translating foreign languages simultaneously," said **Jonathan Margolis** in the *Financial Times*. Like *Star Trek's* universal translator, Pilot allows two or more people to speak to each other in completely different languages and still be understood. When someone wearing a Pilot talks to someone else wearing one, the device pipes a live translation of the conversation into each person's earpiece. Pilot will go on sale in May for \$299. But "put on hold babel-busting dreams of skipping around foreign cities conversing with the locals." Machine translation is constantly improving, thanks to artificial intelligence, but it can still be clunky. And for now, Pilot only offers English and Latin-based languages like Spanish. You'd also have to stick a Pilot "into the ear of everyone you'd meet."



Bytes: What's new in tech

Pinterest's 'real-world' search engine

Pinterest just unveiled a new kind of search result, said **Casey Newton** in *The Verge.com*. With a tool called Lens, Pinterest users can snap a photo of an object in the real world and then have Pinterest suggest items related to it. Take a picture of a pomegranate, for instance, and Pinterest will show results for pomegranate bread, and tips for peeling pomegranates. Snap a photo of a sweater, and Pinterest might show you pictures of the same sweater styled in different ways. Pinterest is also making it easier to buy the stuff you see on the site. Its new Shop the Look feature "identifies items in pins that can be bought," giving a link to make the purchase. Right now, you can find brands including CB2, Target, and Neiman Marcus.

Vive la vérification!

The fight against fake news is headed to France, said **Ivana Kottasova** in *CNN.com*. Google and Facebook are teaming up with nonprofit First Draft News to help French journalists identify and debunk "hoaxes, rumors, and other false claims" in the run-up to the country's first round of presidential elections on April 23. The project—called "CrossCheck"—will provide French newsrooms with tools to monitor search engines

and social networks for fabricated stories. Google will also train French journalism students in "advanced search techniques" to spot fake news. A live feed of shareable "report cards" will be available on the CrossCheck site, providing more information for each false story they identify. At least 17 major news organizations, including *Le Monde* and *BuzzFeed.com*, are participating in CrossCheck.

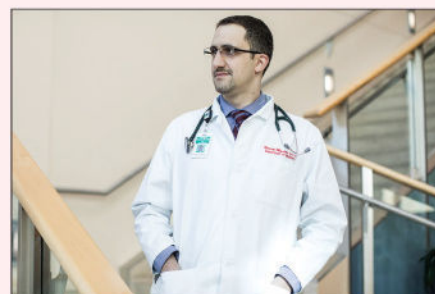
Monitoring phone calls for disease

A startup is working to detect Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease just by listening to the sound of someone's voice—"and it's found a controversial source of audio data to train its algorithms on: phone calls to a health insurer," said **Matt Reynolds** in *NewScientist.com*. Canary Speech says it's working with an unidentified U.S. insurer to analyze hundreds of millions of calls. Using the speakers' medical history and demographic background, Canary looks for subtle vocal cues that might indicate symptoms of certain neurological conditions. "A softness of speech resulting from lack of coordination over the vocal muscles" might be one cue. The company has been coy about the possibility of the technology being used to screen callers or influence insurance premiums, saying such applications "may be regulated."

Doctors affected by travel ban

President Trump's temporary travel ban on citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries may worsen America's dire shortage of doctors, especially in rural areas, hospital officials warn. About 25 percent of all physicians working in the U.S. are immigrants, including more than 15,000 from Iran, Syria, and the other blacklisted nations. Many of these doctors practice in rural and poor urban areas, because it's easier for foreign-born medical school graduates to acquire visa extensions if they work in regions with fewer doctors. The travel ban, which is being litigated in the courts, is not only affecting doctors and research-

ers from the seven countries it covers, the Association of American Medical Colleges warns, but also causing anxiety and uncertainty among physicians from other nations, who worry the ban will be expanded. These doctors' fears are being elevated by Republican proposals in Congress to limit the distribution of visas and green cards from all countries, in a bid to reduce overall immigration by about 50 percent. As a result, foreign-trained doctors may choose to practice in countries that are more welcoming, the AAMC says. "In the midst of a physician shortage, we can ill afford to bar qualified physicians who have adhered to both



Dr. Naeem Moulki, a Syrian, in Minnesota

U.S. legal requirements and medical-licensing requirements," Phil Miller, a medical recruitment firm executive, tells *Forbes.com*. "These doctors are saving lives, not threatening them."



The great outdoors: Better than sleeping pills

Camping improves sleep

Here's an unlikely tip for insomniacs: Spend a few nights under the stars. That's the conclusion of a new study at the University of Colorado Boulder, which found that a camping trip could help those plagued by sleeping problems. The key to good shut-eye is melatonin, reports *CBSNews.com*. Levels of this naturally occurring hormone should rise shortly before bedtime and drop back down when it's time to wake up—but exposure to the artificial glow of phones, computers, and TVs can disrupt the body's natural circadian rhythm. The researchers in Colorado sent five volunteers on a six-day camping expedition in the Rocky Mountains, without torches or any electronic gadgets. The campers slept for over two hours longer than normal during the trip; on their return, their melatonin levels began to rise more than two-and-a-half hours earlier than before. A second experiment, in which one group went camping for a weekend and another stayed at home, produced similar results. The researchers believe greater exposure to sunlight could help reset the body's internal clock, leading to better sleep. Kenneth Wright, the study's co-author, acknowledges that people don't "have to go camping to achieve these benefits"—he recommends going for a walk during the day and dimming the lights at night.

New form of male birth control

The search for a male birth control method besides condoms and vasectomies has long proved fruitless, but researchers may be one step closer to finding one. Vasalgel, a non-hormonal contraceptive gel, is designed to be a reversible and less invasive alternative to a vasectomy. When injected into the tube that carries sperm from the testicles to the penis, it creates a barrier that prevents sperm from reaching the seminal fluid. It has yet to be tested on humans, but a recent study on 16 primates found it to be 100 percent effective. "The male reproductive tract [in monkeys] is very similar to humans', and they have even more sperm than humans do," Catherine VandeVoort, one of the study's lead authors, tells *The Guardian* (U.K.). "Chances are, it's going to be effective in humans." Tests on rabbits have found that the gel can be flushed out of the system with sodium bicarbonate solution; researchers are now investigating whether the procedure is also reversible in monkeys. Human clinical trials could start as early as next year.

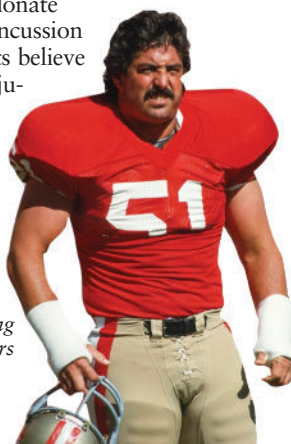
NFL brains donated

Amid mounting concern over chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a degenerative brain condition linked to repeated blows to the head, 30 former NFL players have pledged to donate their brains to concussion research. Scientists believe recurring head injuries cause the organ to waste away over time, leading to a range of troubling symptoms, including impul-

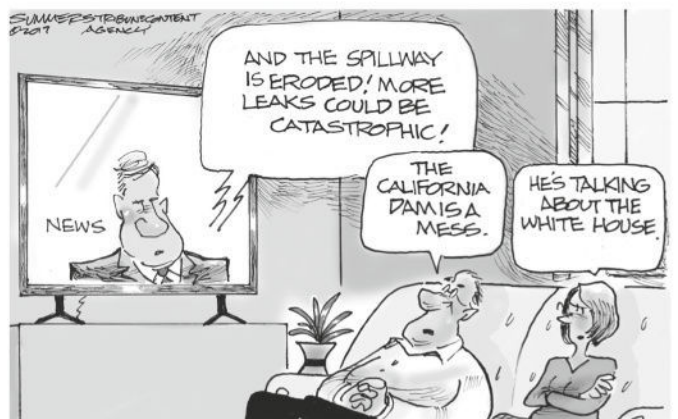
sivity, volatility, memory loss, and depression, reports *MensHealth.com*. While not everyone who sustains multiple head injuries or concussions develops the condition, football players, boxers, and other athletes involved in contact sports are at particularly high risk. Because CTE can be definitively diagnosed only during an autopsy, scientists have struggled to investigate possible treatments. Randy Cross, who played for the San Francisco 49ers between 1976 and 1988, is among those making the pledge. "I can't imagine why anybody that played the game and that cares about the guys and the kids that are starting to play the game now wouldn't donate," he says. "I would urge everybody that's ever played to do it."

Health scare of the week Dangerous fast-food wrappers

As if fast food didn't carry enough health risks, researchers have found a new danger: the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) contained within food packaging. These chemicals, which have grease-repellent properties, have been linked to health issues including cancer, infertility, and immune system disorders. They were banned from food packaging in the U.S. after studies found they could leak into food. But in tests on 400 samples from 27 different fast-food chains, including McDonald's, Chipotle, and Starbucks, researchers found PFASs in 56 percent of dessert and bread wrappers, 38 percent of sandwich and burger packaging, and 20 percent of cardboard. "It's difficult to know how much [of the PFASs] will actually migrate, because it depends on temperature, the type of food, how long the food is in contact with the paper, and what specific PFASs you're talking about," study author Laurel Schaidt tells *Health.com*. Still, she says, "we all already have some reasons to reduce how much fast food we consume—this may be another one."



Cross: Among the 30 donors



Review of reviews: Books

Book of the week

Hit Makers: The Science of Popularity in an Age of Distraction

by Derek Thompson
(Penguin, \$28)

In 1954, when the novelty song “Thirteen Women” was released as a single, nobody considered it the first salvo in a cultural revolution, said Philip Collins in *The Times* (U.K.). It was forgettable and quickly forgotten, and its B side no doubt would have sunk into even deeper obscurity if a boy in California hadn’t reached for it one day when his father’s houseguest said he needed a song for an upcoming movie. A year after making no mark, “Rock Around the Clock,” by Bill Haley & His Comets, played three times in the hit drama *Blackboard Jungle*, then quickly rose to the top of the charts. To author Derek Thompson, the tale is proof that no innate quality of Haley’s song explains why it popped. Though the why remains elusive, Thompson’s spirited new book is “full of



Bill Haley and his wacky mates: Just lucky?

good stories and moments at which you whisper, ‘I didn’t know that.’”

Thompson does admit that hits in every medium tend to share certain traits, said Tim Sullivan in the *Harvard Business Review*. People, he writes, both crave the new and fear it, so the sweet spot is a song or movie or book that feels at once fresh and familiar. Even the faces we consider most beautiful, it turns out, are also the most average. But having the right kind of product isn’t everything, said David Hol-

han in *USA Today*. Gustave Caillebotte was just as good a painter as Claude Monet, we learn, but no one’s heard of Caillebotte because he didn’t include his own work in a collection of Monets, Manets, and Renoirs he bequeathed to a museum that showed the paintings and thus launched the craze for impressionism. Thompson “wonders all over the place” in his wonderful, wandering book, but he does establish that exposure is key.

At one point, he even claims that there’s no such thing as a truly “viral” hit, said Jonah Berger in *The Washington Post*. That statement’s not quite true, but Thompson is right that even on the web it’s a very rare meme that reaches a mass audience without at one point being shared by a mass-media outlet or major celebrity. Unfortunately, Thompson rarely slows down to unpack the implications of any one story. Then again, asking *Hit Makers* to deliver a big takeaway may miss the book’s point, given how often it tells us there’s good money in making old ideas new. “Thompson, after all, seems to be taking his own advice.”

Novel of the week

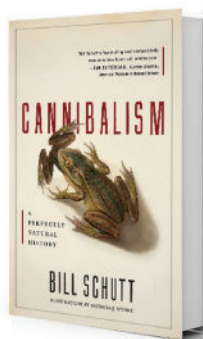
Lincoln in the Bardo

by George Saunders
(Random House, \$28)

George Saunders’ remarkable first novel “reads like the type of tragedy Shakespeare might write if he lived in 21st-century America,” said John Freeman in *The Boston Globe*. Highly unconventional in form, the book is set in a cemetery where Abraham Lincoln’s son has just been laid in a crypt, and when the president visits—and even cradles the boy’s body—a chorus of cantankerous spirits is stirred to act. Though much “zooming silliness” ensues, the tale succeeds even on a metaphysical level because, in the end, “it finds a similarity between our greed to live and our need to die.” The premise is notably thin on dramatic tension, said Christian Lorentzen in *New York* magazine. Because the only suspense lies in whether the ghosts can help Abe let his boy move on to the afterworld, the results prove “sentimental and cartoonish.” Plotting isn’t the point of this novel, though, said David Ulin in the *Los Angeles Times*. Read on its own terms, it emerges as a singularly graceful inquiry into love, death, “all the most important things.”

Cannibalism: A Perfectly Natural History

by Bill Schutt (Algonquin, \$27)

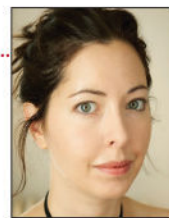


horrifying—or splendidly surprising—than just about any other you might choose to study. Schutt, a zoologist, makes a strong case that cannibalism has been more common in human history than we typically acknowledge. For centuries, Europeans harvested human blood, bone, and more to be ingested for medicinal purposes, and as late as the 1960s, the Chinese elite continued to practice a long tradition of eating human flesh for pleasure. But it helps to put such tales in context: As Schutt points out, cannibalism occurs within every class of vertebrates, and among lower life-forms it’s more the rule than the exception.

“You might think a book on cannibalism would be upsetting,” said Sy Montgomery in *The New York Times*. “This one’s not.” In fact, Bill Schutt’s breezy but learned survey of the subject might restore your faith that the species *Homo sapiens* is no more

Cannibalism, surprisingly, “has much to teach us about evolution,” said Libby Copeland in *Slate.com*. Though few readers will identify with the male redback spider’s willingness to have his innards slurped up by the female after sexual intercourse, his self-immolation apparently greatly increases the odds of his passing on his genes. Similar pragmatism is exhibited by female snails when they lay two sets of eggs, one to nurture and the other to consume. Human cannibalism is far harder to study, of course, because taboos taint the available evidence. Europeans once falsely ascribed cannibalism to New World tribes, for example, while blissfully drinking medicinal concoctions made from human blood and bone dust.

Examples of culturally endorsed cannibalism remain extremely rare, said Bee Wilson in *The Guardian* (U.K.). Even in China, where people once cut meat from their own thighs to feed and thus show deference to their parents, such acts appear to run counter to instinct. Schutt pushes hard, though, on the importance of cannibalism in shaping human culture, citing its prominent role in folk tales and in justifying war and conquest. That argument feels unnecessary. Though their number may be limited, “I’m not aware of anyone ever reproaching cannibals for being boring.”



Author of the week

Jason Rekulak

Jason Rekulak has finally landed on a book idea too good to give away, said **Alexandra Alter** in *The New York Times*. As the longtime publisher of Philadelphia-based Quirk Books, the 45-year-old former English



major has already masterminded some of this century's most out-there best-sellers. Unable to

pay big advances, he hands writers irresistible concepts instead. He gave one old pal the idea for *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. He talked Ransom Riggs into writing a novel inspired by eerie Victorian photos, resulting in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. But when Rekulak dreamed up a story set in 1987 about a teenager who creates a computer game while plotting to steal a copy of *Playboy*, he just started writing. "This was something I wasn't going to be able to commission," he says, "because it was just about me."

Well, him and every other ninth-grader of the time, said **Erica Rivera** in *CraveOnline.com*. In Rekulak's *Impossible Fortress*, 14-year-old Billy Marvin and his pals all want to see Vanna White nude, and all pass their time in dumb schemes and silly pop-culture debates. "I have a really good memory for all that stuff," Rekulak says. "I don't know why." Savoring such memories was useful, he says, when his dad fell ill recently and he had to return regularly to his New Jersey hometown. But fans of the first Jason Rekulak novel shouldn't expect that a follow-up will deliver another dose of '80s nostalgia. "I got all of that stuff out of my system," he says. "It was really fun and I love it, but this is also a really exciting time to be alive."

Best books...chosen by Sarah Manguso

Sarah Manguso is an award-winning poet and memoirist whose new book, 300 Arguments, is a collection of very short prose pieces, some only a sentence long. Below, the Two Kinds of Decay author names six favorite works of micro-literature.

The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, and Issa edited and translated by Robert Hass (Ecco, \$17). In classical haiku, one of the most constrained poetic forms, monkeys and herons and trees and the moon can stand in for the entire world. The best of these tiny poems can be at once specific and timeless, questioning and assertive, funny and sad.

Vectors: Aphorisms & Ten-Second Essays by James Richardson (Ausable, \$14). This first volume in Richardson's multibook project, a cult favorite among writers, contains many exemplars of the tiny essay form. Abundantly quotable, Richardson is equal parts joker, memoirist, and oracle. Many of his one-liners could be used as lifetime mottoes, but they are not propagandistic; instead, they make suggestions, wisely and with exquisite restraint.

The Voice Imitator by Thomas Bernhard (Univ. of Chicago, \$12). These short, haunting stories are the only works of their kind that Bernhard, a famously grouchy Austrian better known for his novels and plays, ever wrote. Each less than a page long, they read like silent Kabuki plays.

Pieces for the Left Hand by J. Robert Lennon (Graywolf, \$15). In this unforgettable collection, Lennon reveals that the very short story isn't just a shorter version of the conventional 5,000-word short story; it is its own thing. Omission must also be part of its machinery. The narratives must both shock and loom, and must manage both effects in a very short time.

Novels in Three Lines by Félix Fénéon (NYRB Classics, \$15). This collection of "novels" consists of more than 1,000 three-line summaries of local crimes and odd stories that Fénéon originally published anonymously in the French newspaper *Le Matin* in 1906. Imagine a series of 10-second gesture drawings by a master artist.

100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write: On Umbrellas and Sword Fights, Parades and Dogs, Fire Alarms, Children, and Theater by Sarah Ruhl (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$15). I suspect that if Ruhl, an award-winning playwright, had had more time to write these essays, they wouldn't be so piquant. They read like improvised songs, not laboriously sanded-down longer essays—a rare achievement.

Also of interest...in elusive feelings

What Love Is

by Carrie Jenkins (Basic, \$27)



It's time to stop treating love as an insoluble mystery, said Skye Cleary in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. In her "bubbly" new treatise on the subject, Vancouver philosophy professor Carrie Jenkins claims she just wants people to think more clearly about love when she proposes that it's rooted in biochemistry but channeled by culture into too-rigid forms. A practitioner of polyamory, she too often lets that experience shape her dialogue with thinkers past and present. Even so, her openness "works to her advantage."

The Little Book of Hygge

by Meik Wiking (William Morrow, \$20)



Maybe the Danes really have discovered the secret to living well, said Erin Booke in *The Dallas Morning News*. In this charming international best-seller, the head of Denmark's Happiness Research Institute—"yes, there is such a thing"—describes how to cultivate *hygge*, the sense of convivial coziness that's central to Danish culture. Tips on decorating, cooking, and strengthening friendships are all included, making this illustrated guide "the ultimate hygge initiation."

This Close to Happy

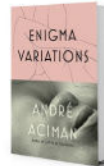
by Daphne Merkin (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$26)



"It is standard fare to say that books on depression are brave," said Andrew Solomon in *The New York Times*. "This one actually is." In a memoir notable for its "exquisite and sometimes darkly humorous prose," essayist Daphne Merkin presents herself as a self-obsessed woman of privilege forever ready to be wounded. And yet, "the same tinge of self-aware narcissism that makes the book at times so annoying makes it finally triumphant." Here, at last, is what being a depressive feels like.

Enigma Variations

by André Aciman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$26)



"Is there any writer out there who can conjure the seismic swings and loop-the-loop giddiness of sexual infatuation the way that André Aciman can?" asked Michael Upchurch in *The Boston Globe*. Paul, the bisexual narrator of Aciman's new novel, recounts his life by revisiting five key relationships, all leading to a "cunning" final twist. *Enigma Variations* gets florid here and there, but its power lies in "its agile sense of the heart's paradoxes and might-have-beens."

The Grammys: Adele, Beyoncé, and the case for another boycott

"It was Adele's night. But it happened in Beyoncé's world," said Mikael Wood in the *Los Angeles Times*. At the end of a four-hour ceremony in which Adele won all the biggest honors, including Song of the Year and Album of the Year, the 28-year-old British singer helped make the resulting snub of Beyoncé's more acclaimed *Lemonade* into the story people will remember about the 2017 Grammys. "I can't possibly accept this award," she said as she stood onstage cradling the album trophy. Then she praised *Lemonade* as the superior record, addressed Beyoncé in the audience by saying, "You are our light," and finally broke the trophy in two.



Beyoncé on the Grammy stage

"Grammys, please, please, please, stop doing this to Adele"—and to artists like her, said Carl Wilson in *Slate.com*. More so even than the Oscars, the Grammys have a history of favoring white performers and—especially given how many white recording executives owe their careers to black music culture—it's time the Recording Academy fixed its voting process. Adele's gesture brought back memories of similar apologies choked out by recent white winners Macklemore and Beck, whose Grammy victories might help explain why pioneering black artists like Frank Ocean and Kanye West boycotted Sunday's ceremony. This year, *Lemonade* was "the better and more ambitious record by any accounting," said Amanda Petrusich in *The New Yorker*. Grammy voters are traditionalists, though, and they

chose Adele's "unerringly pleasant" pop balladry.

Rap and R&B fans can't be the only listeners angered by Sunday's results, said Craig Jenkins in *Vulture.com*. After stiffing David Bowie for 32 years, the academy posthumously awarded his album *Blackstar* most every rock award available, shutting out younger contenders. And country fans won't like that even one honor went to the a cappella group Pentatonix. To the academy's credit, Chance the Rapper—an innovator who self-releases his music—won two big awards, including Best Rap Album. Still, that windfall couldn't erase "the nagging sense" that "a landmark year for black music" had gone undercelebrated. "Perhaps it's time for a bigger walkout."

And the winners were...

Album of the Year: 25, Adele

Record of the Year: *Hello*, Adele

Best Pop Vocal Album: 25, Adele

Best New Artist: Chance the Rapper

Best Rap Album: *Coloring Book*, Chance the Rapper

Best Urban Contemporary Album: *Lemonade*, Beyoncé

Best Music Video: "Formation," Beyoncé



Adele

Get Out

Directed by Jordan Peele
(R)



Something's not right
in suburbia.

Jordan Peele is "positively fearless," said Peter Debruge in *Variety*. In his directorial debut, the writer-actor best known for the sketch-comedy series *Key & Peele* has blended race-savvy satire with horror to create a "bombshell" social critique that's most remarkable for refusing to pull a single punch. Daniel Kaluuya stars as a young black man who agrees to visit his white girlfriend's parents in the suburbs and learns gradually that the family's welcoming demeanor obscures deeply sinister intent. Early on, *Get Out* is "both unsettling and hysterical, often in the same moment," said Brian Tallerico in *RogerEbert.com*. Kaluuya's Chris at



Kaluuya and his boo, Allison Williams

first politely brushes off casually racist remarks, and it's unclear whether we're witnessing routine awkwardness or something more menacing. Though the movie loses some of its satirical edge in the third act, by then it's become an impressive horror thriller ride. Never does *Get Out* settle into being "the kind of film that exists to let the audience

clap itself on the back for being above it all," said Dominick Suzanne-Mayer in *ConsequenceOfSound.net*. Peele's chief targets are white liberals who too easily dismiss racism, and that focus serves him well. Even in its most routine genre moments, this horror movie feels "intriguingly unique."

John Wick: Chapter 2

Directed by Chad Stahelski
(R)



An honorable assassin
returns to work.

"There's a strange comfort in just how good *John Wick: Chapter 2* is," said David Sims in *TheAtlantic.com*. The pulpy pleasures of the 2014 original came as such a surprise that you could worry its success was a fluke. But the installment wisely doubles down on the franchise's inventive world building and "balletic" approach to ultraviolence. Once again, Keanu Reeves plays the titular assassin, a calm professional who "fights like a gun-toting sorcerer." Here, he must fulfill a blood oath by killing an Italian mafiosa, and because he has less at stake personally, we get more of the character's



Reeves: A real pro's pro

zany parallel reality, in which hit men follow a strict code of conduct and live together in a luxury hotel where business stops at the door. "Some of this world building is fun, and almost all of it is dazzling," said Jeannette Catsoulis in *The New York Times*. But Wick, a widower who first came out of retirement when an intruder killed his

puppy, has no interests here behind his work, and that will burden a franchise. Still, Reeves is perfect in the role, said Stephanie Zacharek in *Time*. He radiates a lived-in cool, and "he knows what's awful and what's funny about every scene."

Movies on TV

Monday, Feb. 20**The Great Escape**

Steve McQueen leads a who's who of tough-guy actors, playing prisoners of war determined to break out of a Luftwaffe-run compound. (1963) 7:40 p.m., Starz Encore Action

Tuesday, Feb. 21**Good Morning, Vietnam**

Robin Williams garnered an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of a U.S. Armed Forces DJ whose on-air irreverence riles his superiors. (1987) 10 p.m., Cinemax

Wednesday, Feb. 22**Training Day**

A rookie LAPD cop takes a ride-along with a narcotics division vet who operates outside the law. Ethan Hawke and Denzel Washington co-star. (2001) 8 p.m., IFC

Thursday, Feb. 23**Cast Away**

A plane crash strands Tom Hanks on a desert island and leaves him with only a volleyball to talk to. (2000) 4:05 p.m., HBO

Friday, Feb. 24**Some Like It Hot**

Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis play musicians who don't drag to escape a murderous mobster and to share a berth with Marilyn Monroe. To some, it's Hollywood's best comedy ever. (1959) 8 p.m., TCM

Saturday, Feb. 25**Foxcatcher**

A DuPont heir's obsession with wrestling ends in murder in this drama based on a bizarre true story. With Steve Carell, Mark Ruffalo, and Channing Tatum. (2014) 9 p.m., Sundance

Sunday, Feb. 26**The Third Man**

In postwar Vienna, a writer digs for details about a friend's mysterious death. Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten co-star. (1949) 9:45 p.m., TCM

The Week's guide to what's worth watching

The Breaks

In 1990 New York City, everybody's saying hip-hop's the future, but somebody's got to make that future happen. This new series picks up where last year's TV movie of the same name left off, as three young friends pursue their music dreams in a business where the drug trade is a source of both content and venture capital. Mack Wilds, Afton Williamson, and Antoine Harris return in the featured roles, joined by Method Man and Teyana Taylor. *Monday, Feb. 20, at 9 p.m., VH1*

Bates Motel

The last time we checked in on A&E's chilling *Psycho*-inspired series, Norma Bates had died in her son's failed attempt at a murder-suicide. But as the show's final season begins, Norma is still speaking to young Norman as he goes about his days, and the plot starts to run parallel to the horror classic that inspired it. Freddie Highmore and Vera Farmiga co-star, while Rihanna will arrive to fill the Janet Leigh role—shower scene included. *Monday, Feb. 20, at 10 p.m., A&E*

Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise

To hear her name is to hear her voice. Maya Angelou's first book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, introduced much of the world to that voice and to the story of her childhood, and had such an impact that people today forget she lived 40 full years before establishing herself as one of the foremost writers of her generation. This documentary, which debuted last year at Sundance, follows her story into this century but is most revelatory when showing us Angelou as a teenage mother and prostitute, then a singer, dancer, and 1960s activist. *Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 8 p.m., PBS; check local listings*

The Blacklist: Redemption

An offshoot of NBC's hit crime series pulls together a team of notorious baddies who take on dangerous black-ops work in order to atone for years of evil deeds. *Blacklist* regular Ryan Eggold stars opposite Famke Janssen. He's an undercover operative she wants on her team, and she doesn't know when she comes on to him that she's his mother. *Thursday, Feb. 23, at 10 p.m., NBC*



Highmore as Norman Bates: *Never truly alone*

Patriot

Who says a secret agent can't play folk music? In one of the quirkiest new series of this young year, Michael Dorman portrays an intelligence officer who in a bid to keep Iran from going nuclear takes an industrial job in Milwaukee and plays folk clubs on the side. It's never easy to successfully mix dark comedy and jarring violence, but Dorman (*Wonderland*) and co-stars Michael Chernus and Terry O'Quinn (*Lost*) have the talent to pull the trick off. *Available for streaming Friday, Feb. 24, Amazon*

Other highlights**Sun Records**

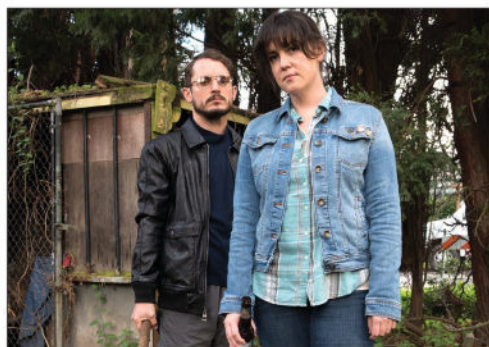
An eight-part series inspired by a Tony-winning musical tells the story of the Memphis record label that launched Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash. *Thursday, Feb. 23, at 10 p.m., CMT*

Vice

The renegade news program returns for a fifth season with reports from around the globe. *Friday, Feb. 24, at 11 p.m., HBO*

The 89th Annual Academy Awards

The stars will shine—and no doubt share some of their political insights—as they gather to honor the best movies of 2016. Jimmy Kimmel hosts and *La La Land* comes in the favorite for a very big night. *Sunday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m., ABC*



Wood and Lynskey: *The mice have had enough.*

Show of the week**I Don't Feel at Home in This World Anymore.**

Ever feel like the last of the nice people? In this stylish noir comedy—the winner of the 2017 Sundance Grand Jury Prize—Melanie Lynskey of *Two and a Half Men* plays a worn-down nursing assistant who takes matters into her own hands when burglars hit her apartment and the cops don't even care that her grandmother's silver was stolen. Her crackpot neighbor—a skinny martial-arts fanatic played by Elijah Wood—joins the hunt for the wrongdoers, and their mission turns increasingly absurd, and absurdly violent, as they near their end goal. *Available for streaming Friday, Feb. 24, Netflix*

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LEISURE

Food & Drink

Soy-braised short ribs: The Korean way to celebrate

I like to think of this recipe as the “grown-up” version of *kalbi jim*, the classic Korean short-rib dish, says Sohui Kim in *The Good Fork Cookbook* (Abrams). Given the proliferation of Korean barbecue restaurants in the U.S., you might not guess that Koreans actually eat very little meat. To me, short ribs were for special occasions only, which is why when my mother made them, I always thought that someone must be getting married. They’re great to make on any cold day, though, because they simmer for hours on a warm stove.

At the Good Fork, the Brooklyn restaurant that I run with my husband, I add a little French technique—braising the short ribs in red wine instead of simply boiling them, as many Koreans do. I serve the ribs with black rice, and garnish the dish with kimchi, scallions, sesame seeds, crushed chestnuts, and ribbons of fried and beaten eggs. But don’t worry about providing all of those additions: “Just one or two is all you need.”

Recipe of the week

Soy-braised short ribs

Canola or grapeseed oil, for sautéing
4–5 lbs bone-in beef short ribs, about 5 inches long
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 large onion, cut in large dice



Don't skimp on the kimchi.

3 cloves garlic, crushed
1/3 cup peeled fresh ginger chunks
2 cups red wine
2 cups water or chicken stock
3/4 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup mirin
1 cup diced kimchi
Crushed chestnuts, toasted sesame seeds,

sliced scallions, and slivers of fried beaten eggs, for garnish (optional)

Add just enough canola oil to coat a wide, heavy-bottomed, straight-sided pot, and warm the oil over high heat. Season the ribs lightly with salt and pepper and sear them well on all sides. Remove ribs and set them aside. In the same pot, add more oil if needed and sauté onion, garlic, and ginger over medium-high heat until they begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Add wine and let it reduce by half.

Add water or stock, soy sauce, brown sugar, and mirin. Bring to a boil, then add half of the kimchi, 1 tsp salt, and 1/4 tsp pepper. Return ribs to pan. The liquid should come at least three-quarters of the way up the sides of the ribs. If it doesn't, add more water or stock. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 2 1/2 hours, covered. Check after 2 hours; if the meat is falling off the bone but not falling apart, the ribs are ready. Remove ribs from pan.

Strain the sauce. Skim off and discard as much fat as you can with a ladle. Serve ribs covered with the sauce and garnished with the remaining 1/2 cup chopped kimchi and, if you like, one or more of the optional toppings. Serves 4 to 6.

Wine: New discoveries

It's always fun to share wine from an unlikely place—“especially when the wine is good,” said Michael Austin in the *Chicago Tribune*. If you're in that kind of mood, look first to places that neighbor well-known wine countries or regions. A satisfying bottle from Idaho or Uruguay “will do more for your special occasion than any humdrum wine from California ever could.”

2014 Lidio Carraro Agnus Merlot (\$12). The complex flavors of plum, smoke, and chocolate in this wine should alert you that Brazil's merlots are underrated.

2013 Colter's Creek Koos-Koos-Kia Red (\$22). Credit Idaho with this one, a “delightful” Bordeaux-style blend “full of ripe plum, baking spices, and vanilla.”

2012 Golan Heights Winery Yarden Cabernet Sauvignon (\$32). Grapes grown in northern Israel produce a cab with “grippy” tannins and “notes of blackberry, herbs, anise, and mint.”



Durham, N.C.: A hot spot that remains stubbornly itself

For those of us who fondly remember 1990s Durham, the city's current energy level “still takes some getting used to,” said Bronwen Dickey in *Garden & Gun*. Downtown, formerly empty tobacco warehouses now house artisan bakeries and sushi bars, while university students mix with families and skater boys on the once deserted streets. Luckily, “Durham will always be Durham”—scrappy at heart and “a little off-kilter” no matter how many more names it adds to its list of great places to eat.

Rose's Meat Market & Sweet Shop If it's Wednesday in Durham, it's time to line up for ramen at this husband-and-wife operation. The pork bones come from the local pigs Justin Meddis breaks down and sells as chops and tenderloins and in sausage sandwiches. The shop's “equally adored” baked goods, created by Katie Meddis, include homemade ice cream sandwiches and salted-caramel ginger apple hand pies. 121 N. Gregson St., (919) 797-2233

Saltbox Seafood Joint Ricky Moore worked in some top Parisian and New York City kitchens before deciding to create an urban fish camp in downtown Durham. It's outdoor seating only for Moore's “blissfully simple” seafood, like fresh perch lightly batter-fried and served with slaw and crispy potatoes. Don't miss the hush puppies with spiced honey. 608 N. Mangum St., (919) 908-8970

Scratch Phoebe Lawless' modest breakfast-and-lunch place merits a stop-in first for her sinfully good Southern pies—like brown-butter pecan and buttermilk sweet potato. But Scratch also serves a “bang-up” Sunday brunch, at which the main attraction is a build-your-own buttermilk biscuit bar. 111 Orange St., (919) 956-5200



Saltbox's Ricky Moore

This week's dream: Nicaragua before the crowds arrive

When considering a vacation in Nicaragua—land of seven active volcanoes—“the greatest risk might be waiting to visit,” said David Rennie in *1843* magazine. With its lush jungles, nearly empty beaches, and mansion-filled colonial towns, the Central American nation is primed to be discovered by foreign tourists looking for an alternative to pricier Costa Rica. Though Nicaragua is a poor country, it “packs a lot into a small area”—as my family and I discovered when we spent a magical two weeks there this past summer during the so-called rainy season. We rode horses along the shore of Lake Nicaragua, took surfing lessons in the Pacific, and zip-lined through towering cedar trees on an old coffee plantation. Rarely did we need reservations.

In León, a city whose colonial architecture rivals anything in Mexico or Cuba, we climbed to the roof of the cathedral to take in views of the volcanoes stretching out



Horses tied near Laguna de Apoyo, a volcanic lake

along the nation's Pacific coast. Because every surface of the church is whitewashed, walking amid its rooftop cupolas “feels like being in an avant-garde film about the afterlife.” The volcanoes we saw from the roof proved thrilling up close, too. At the “seethingly active” Volcán de Masaya, a park guard chided visitors who tarried

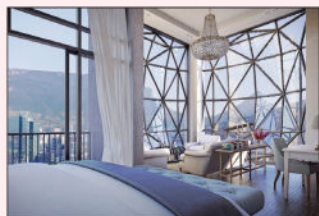
more than their allotted five minutes at the volcano's lip, but he had to shout to be heard over the lava roaring far below. On Cerro Negro, the region's youngest volcano, we hauled rented boards up the cone's slope, and after donning protective jumpsuits, slid back down on the soft ash.

Among Nicaragua's many unique landscapes, the best might be Isla de Ometepe, an island in Lake Nicaragua that was formed by two volcanoes now linked by a narrow isthmus. Ometepe proved a wonderfully land-guid place, “down to the Sunday baseball games played between villages.”

Staying at a hotel near the summit of the island's inactive volcano, we woke each morning to the bellow of howler monkeys and spent hours in the open-sided restaurant soaking in views that were “worthy of a Bond villain's lair.”

At Isla de Ometepe's Totoco Eco-Lodge (totoco.com.ni), lodges start at \$99.

Hotel of the week



The best views in town?

The Silo

Cape Town, South Africa

A new boutique hotel is opening in South Africa's great port city, and “it's set to be a stunner,” said *The Sunday Times* (U.K.). A 1920s grain tower that was long the country's tallest building has been converted by British architect Thomas Heatherwick into a 28-room boutique property perched above a major new contemporary art museum on the Victoria and Albert Waterfront. Rooms inside the 187-foot tower have 18-foot-high windows. If you can't afford a stay, just stop by the rooftop champagne bar, with its glass swimming pool and spectacular views. theroyalportfolio.com/rooms from \$872.

Getting the flavor of...

Canned lightning in Bellingham

In Bellingham, Wash., the spirit of Nikola Tesla crackles on, said Brian Cantwell in *The Seattle Times*. The Serbian-American inventor of alternating current, who was known for his dramatic public demonstrations of electricity's wonders, would have been thrilled by the waterfront city's Spark Museum. Dedicated to electrical inventions through the ages, the museum displays some cool gear, including a replica of the *Titanic*'s Marconi wireless room and a hutch-size RCA Radiola 30, America's first AC-powered radio. “Indisputably,” though, the MegaZapper show is the big draw. Volunteering to be a guinea pig, I sign some waivers and am soon ushered toward a menacing metal cage furnished with a simple chair. In truth, “it feels a lot like being led to my execution.” The metal door slams shut, the room goes dark, and a “blinding bolt of sizzling power” darts toward the cage from a large Tesla coil. “Guess what? I don't die.” In fact, I'd do it again.

Cuba by luxury yacht

Travel to Cuba for most Americans is still largely prohibited by embargo, but there is a beautiful exception, said Abel Fernandez in Miami's *El Nuevo Herald*. Like the numerous cruise ships that have started offering passage to the island nation since 2015, yachts can skirt the restrictions, and many are making the trip. If you don't own a yacht of your own—or simply want to avoid dealing with the paperwork—you can now contact a concierge service, such as VIP Yachts or Cuba Seas, to put together a luxury yacht cruise at a cost of \$50,000 to \$1 million for all passengers. During their stay in Cuba, travelers enjoy a busy itinerary, including rides in classic cars and dinners at *paladares*, or family-run restaurants. Often, to meet a requirement that the trip serve a scientific purpose, passengers dive with Cuban marine biologists and gather data. Unless the Trump administration reverses the relaxed rules, such trips appear likely to only multiply.

Last-minute travel deals

A Nordic summer

Through Feb. 23, Scandinavian Airlines is offering a sale on summer flights to several Scandinavian cities. For May 19–Aug. 17 departures, nonstop round-trip flights from New York to Stockholm start at \$696. Saturday-night stay required. flysas.com

Spain for two

Enjoy a 12-day tour of Spain this spring and save up to \$1,500 per couple, including \$300 in air credit. Through Feb. 28, Monograms' April 16 trip starts at \$2,327 per person, double occupancy. Stops include Barcelona, Seville, and Madrid. monograms.com

Next year's cruise

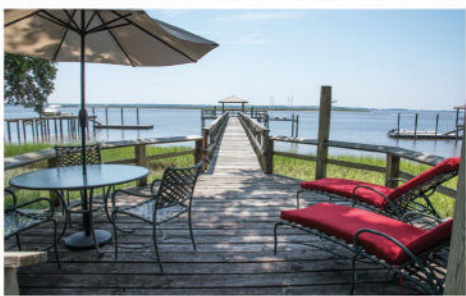
Crystal Cruises is offering discounts on 2018 yacht or river tour voyages if you book by April. A round-trip West Indies cruise to Marigot Bay starts at \$4,750 per person, double occupancy, a savings of nearly \$1,000. crystalcruises.com

This week: Riverside homes

1 **◀ Palm City, Fla.** This three-bedroom house was built in 1986 on the edge of the St. Lucie River. Details include pecky cypress ceilings, a fireplace, and 1,500 square feet of outdoor living space. The property has its own deeded bay called the Yacht Basin, four slips, and a boat dock with two lifts. \$999,000. Tom Whitehouse, The Keyes Co., (772) 233-0568



2 **◀ Westport, Mass.** This four-bedroom home sits on 47 acres overlooking the Westport River. The shingle-style house has an open living area, a grand staircase, a stone fireplace, and a master suite with a dressing room and a deck. The property features two barns and 800 feet of shoreline with a pier and a dock. \$7,900,000. Will Milbury, Milbury and Co., (508) 525-5200



3 **▶ Charleston, S.C.** Built in 1920, this four-bedroom house offers panoramic views of the Stono River. Features include a chef's kitchen, oak floors, and a master suite with a walk-in closet and a spa bathroom. The half-acre property has a deep-water dock, a boat lift, and a dry slip. \$2,995,000. Helen Geer, William Means, (843) 224-7767



4 ► Shohola, Pa. This cedar-shake home built in 2007 overlooks the Delaware River. The four-bedroom house features an open floor plan, cathedral windows, a woodstove, and a master suite with a dressing room and a spa bath. Other amenities include multiple decks, a separate art studio, an outdoor shower, 1,000 feet of waterfront, and a boathouse. \$784,900. A. James Pearsall and Sharon Angle, Kurfiss/Sotheby's International Realty, (215) 962-3523

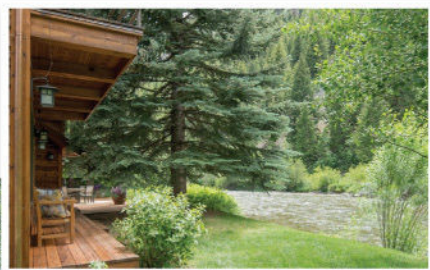


5 ◀ New York This 150-foot historic vessel is the oldest existing Ellis Island ferry. Built in 1907, the renovated boat boasts 11 bedrooms, a stage for parties, and guest quarters in the former wheelhouse. The 10,000-square-foot ship served in World Wars I and II and has mounted guns on the side. \$1,250,000. Michael R. Franklin, Franklin Ruttan, (315) 876-2262

Steal of the week



6 ◀ Sun Valley, Idaho Built in 1971, this four-bedroom home lies along a bank of the Big Wood River. Interior amenities include a chef's kitchen, hardwood floors, a large stone fireplace, and views of the river throughout. The house was fully remodeled in 2005 and has a deck just feet away from the water's edge. \$4,250,000. Sheila Liermann, Keller Williams/Sun Valley Southern Idaho, (208) 481-0450



7 ▲ Prescott, Wis. This one-bedroom, log-sided cabin is set along the National Scenic Waterway of the St. Croix River. Details include a large screened porch, new solid oak floors, a river-rock fireplace, and two decks. The 0.45-acre property has a stairway to a sandy beach and 150 feet of waterfront footage. \$399,777. The Otts, Coldwell Banker Burnet, (651) 458-4776

The 2017 Chevrolet Bolt: What the critics say

Jalopnik.com

Chevrolet's new four-seat hatchback "could take electric vehicles mainstream in a way we haven't seen before." Unveiled a year ago but just beginning a staggered 10-month rollout to dealerships in all 50 states, the Chevy Bolt is the first affordable EV that has a 200-plus-mile range, and it's "absolutely" fit to be an everyday car for most drivers. Given tax incentives, customers in several states will be able to buy one for well under \$30,000.

Car and Driver

"We were a bit disappointed with its interior quality," though the cabin's spaciousness

and tech features partially make up for the abundance of hard plastics. Better yet, the Bolt isn't just good to drive for an electric car; "it's good to drive, period." Though it doesn't exactly dance through tight corners, it combines a "satisfyingly firm" ride with tire-chirping peel-out power. And when driven conservatively, it should "far outperform" its EPA-certified 238-mile range.

Automobile

Until Chevrolet opens more charging stations, you'll need a \$700 charger at home to recharge the Bolt in under 10 hours. For now, Tesla's supercharger network is "definitely at an advantage." But a Tesla S costs almost



An everyman's e-car, from \$37,495

twice as much as the "broadly appealing" Bolt, a "solid little ride" that's as ready as the S is to handle long commutes and worry-free road trips.

The best of...gear for business travelers



Cabeau Evolution Cool Pillow

Firmer than a bead-filled pillow but softer than an inflatable, this neck pillow combines sculpted memory foam with cooling air vents. It's "by far" the most comfortable option around, and it packs down tight when not in use.

\$60, [cabeau.com](#)

Source: BusinessInsider.com



The ShelfPack

Say hello to "the portable closet of your dreams." Developed by a well-traveled software engineer, the ShelfPack holds a "staggering" number of folded clothes between its built-in shelves. Zip it open, and the expanding shelves set up in a snap.

\$349, [shelfpack.com](#)

Source: HuffingtonPost.com



Hunter QLS03 Humidifier

If the dry air in a typical hotel room bothers you, tuck Hunter's petite humidifier into your suitcase, then set it up on your nightstand. Its tank is a regular water bottle, so all you need to pack is the base.

\$27, [amazon.com](#)

Source: Consumer Reports



Avegant Glyph

Stop craning your neck to watch movies on a tiny screen. This contraption projects HD content straight at your eyes, "so it's like you're watching a 40-inch flatscreen." Surprisingly, you only have to shift your eyes to see what's happening around you.

\$499, [avegant.com](#)

Source: TechCrunch.com



Tumi Patrol Packable Puffer Jacket

Tumi's lightweight puffer can be rolled and stuffed into a small pouch hidden in the collar. It's basically a wearable headrest. "What savvy business traveler wouldn't want to pack this?"

\$195, [tumi.com](#)

Source: CNTraveler.com

Tip of the week...

How to save on kid essentials

■ **Baby formula:** It's pricey stuff, so sign up for monthly coupons on the manufacturer's website. Also see what your pediatrician can do. If your baby needs a specialty formula, getting a prescription shifts the cost to your insurer, and doctors also sometimes have free samples provided by the manufacturers.

■ **Diapers:** Through Amazon.com's Subscribe and Save service, you can get 15 percent off all items you have delivered once a month. Also, big-box stores regularly have sales to promote diaper brands, offering, say, a \$25 gift card when you spend \$100.

■ **Clothing:** Buy a year ahead, during end-of-season sales, to enjoy huge discounts on staples like shorts and jeans. Never buy without a coupon, since you can sign up for store coupons or find one at RetailMeNot.com. Finally, use secondhand retailers like Kidizen.com and ThredUp.com: They'll even buy clothes your family no longer needs.

Source: LearnVest.com

And for those who have everything...

Ever dreamed of running a food-truck business? Realize your barista fantasies with the **Wheelys 5**, a high-tech coffee cart created by Wheelys Café, a Stockholm-based company whose mobile café business has spread to more than 60 countries in just three years. The bike-mounted cart has running water, a refrigerator, a gas stove, a solar roof, a stereo system, integrated Wi-Fi, and even a miniature greenhouse for growing organic coffee beans. Its customizable layout can accommodate a juicing station, a creperie, and an ice-cream bar, and it can brew anything from espresso to nitro coffee.

\$8,999, [wheelyscafe.com](#)

Source: New York magazine



Best apps...

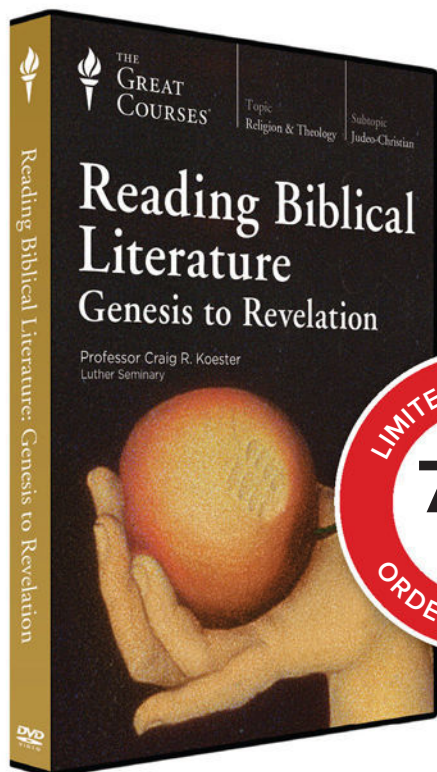
For buying what you believe in

■ **Buycott** makes it easy to express your ethical views with your wallet. Simply scan a product's bar code to learn about the product and its producer, including activities the firm might wish to hide. If you choose to boycott the brand, you can notify the company with a single tap.

■ **DoneGood** helps you find products from lesser-known socially responsible brands. Available as a browser extension or stand-alone app, it lets you set ethical priorities for your online shopping. When you're on Amazon or any other site, it'll automatically show you products that meet your criteria.

■ **Orange Harp** is a shopping app for iOS that sells only products made by socially responsible companies. New producers are added regularly, but only after heavy screening by a "passionate" team that has made it a mission to end slavery in the international garment industry.

Source: Forbes.com



Join an Ongoing Spiritual and Literary Conversation

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5. Moses and the Drama of the Exodus
6. Freedom and Law at Mount Sinai
7. Israel's Wandering in the Wilderness
8. Violence and Kindness in the Promised Land
9. Saul, the Tragic King
10. David and Nation Building
11. Solomon, a Study in Contradictions
12. Psalms: The Bible's Songbook
13. Biblical Wisdom Literature
14. Elijah, the Troubler of Israel
15. Justice and Love in Amos and Hosea
16. Isaiah on Defiant Hope
17. Jeremiah on Anguish and Compassion
18. Babylonian Conquest and Exile
19. Ezekiel on Abandonment and Homecoming
20. Jewish Identity and Rebuilding after Exile
21. Esther, Daniel, and Life under Empire
22. Resistance, Adaptation, and the Maccabees
23. Jesus as Messiah in Mark
24. Mark on the Crucifixion and Resurrection
25. The Dynamics of Forgiveness in Matthew
26. Luke on a World Upside Down
27. John on the Word Made Flesh
28. Self-Giving Love According to John
29. The Early Church in Acts
30. Paul's Calling
31. Paul and the Roman Empire
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The news at a glance

The bottom line

■ Twenty-nine percent of American workers say they've been less productive since the election, according to a survey by software firm BetterWorks. Almost a third of respondents said their colleagues spend more time talking about politics than about work; nearly half have seen a political conversation turn into an argument. *TheAtlantic.com*

■ A black job candidate is nearly 50 percent more likely to get hired by a tech firm in San Francisco or New York than the average white candidate, according to online job marketplace Hired. But black tech workers are typically paid \$10,000 less a year than their white counterparts. *USA Today*

■ Lawyers and bankers earned \$1.5 billion in fees working on the Aetna-Humana and Anthem-Cigna mergers, both of which were blocked by the courts. *Axios.com*



■ The average American is expected to eat 91.7 pounds of chicken this year, 9 percent more than in 2010. U.S. consumers spend more than \$90 billion a year on chicken—more than on any other meat. *Associated Press*

■ Only 174 oil and gas fields were discovered worldwide in 2016, the lowest number in 60 years, as energy companies curbed exploration and large oil fields have become harder to find. The industry averaged roughly 400 to 500 new discoveries a year until 2013. *Financial Times*

The Fed: Wall Street regulator resigns

The Federal Reserve's "point man" on regulation is stepping down, said Renae Merle in *The Washington Post*. Federal Reserve governor Daniel Tarullo announced last week that he would resign in April, "nearly five years before the end of his term." He didn't explain the reason for his departure. Tarullo, appointed to the Fed in 2009 by then-President Obama, helped push tough policies intended to prevent a repeat of the financial crisis, including stricter capital requirements for banks to cushion against possible emergencies. His departure leaves three openings on the Fed's seven-member board, giving President Trump the opportunity to dramatically reshape the central bank.



Tarullo: Leaving five years early

It's rare for a president to have this much "immediate influence" on the Federal Reserve, said Rob Garver in *TheFiscalTimes.com*. Governing board members are appointed to 14-year terms, with one expiration every two years, meaning turnover is usually slow. But a fourth seat could soon be open. The Fed chairmanship rotates on a four-year basis, with Janet Yellen's term ending next year. Although Yellen's membership on the board doesn't expire until 2024, it's possible she will retire if she isn't reappointed chair. "In theory at least, by this time next year, a majority of the members of the Fed board could be Trump appointees."

Washington: Mnuchin takes top Treasury job

Steven Mnuchin was confirmed as Treasury secretary this week after a fierce Senate fight, said Jim Puzzanghera in the *Los Angeles Times*. Democrats made defeating Mnuchin a priority, accusing the wealthy hedge fund manager of profiting off the subprime mortgage crisis as head of California's OneWest Bank. Ultimately, all 52 Republicans voted for Mnuchin, as did Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia. Mnuchin "immediately faces a packed agenda," with his agency expected to take a leading role in the administration's plans to cut corporate taxes and roll back financial regulations.

Markets: S&P 500 hits record highs

The Trump rally is back on, said Noel Randewich in *Reuters.com*. The S&P 500's market value topped \$20 trillion this week for the first time, spurred on by President Trump's promise that a "major tax announcement" is coming. Renewed hope for tax cuts reignited a boom that had stalled amid concern over the president's trade protectionism and lack of policy specifics. "The S&P 500 has surged about 9 percent since Trump's Nov. 8 election."

Autos: CEOs ask for regulatory relief

The chief executives of 18 major automakers are urging President Trump to review the Obama Administration's fuel-efficiency rules, said Ryan Beene in *Bloomberg.com*. In a letter to the president, the heads of General Motors, Ford, Fiat Chrysler, and other firms said the standards could put "perhaps as many as a million jobs at risk." Automakers agreed in 2011 to boost their fleet-wide fuel economy to an average of more than 50 miles per gallon by 2025. Car companies say falling gasoline prices have reduced demand for their most fuel-efficient vehicles, "making achieving the standards more difficult."

Media: YouTube, Disney dump video star PewDiePie

YouTube canceled its biggest star's show this week over his frequent anti-Semitic jokes, said Jack Nicas in *The Wall Street Journal*. Felix Kjellberg, known to fans as PewDiePie, made anti-Jewish jokes or showed Nazi imagery in nine videos—including one that featured a banner reading, "Death to all Jews." After *WSJ* reported on the offensive material, YouTube axed the Swedish comedian's show, which anchored the YouTube Red subscription service. Disney, which helped run Kjellberg's business, cut ties following the revelation. Kjellberg has 53 million subscribers on YouTube; he earned \$14.5 million in 2016.

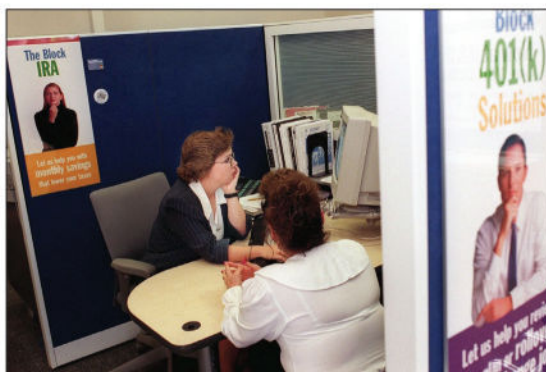
Big paychecks backfire at Google

Google paid staffers in its self-driving car division so well that some decided they could afford to quit, said Alistair Barr and Mark Bergen in *Bloomberg.com*. Google's car project has bled talent over the past year as it struggled with leadership changes and doubts about strategy. But sources inside the company say an "unusual compensation system" is also to blame. Some early employees ultimately earned multi-million dollar paychecks, jokingly dubbed "F-you money." The reason: Google applied a multiplier to early stock awards and bonuses based on the project's valuation. As the promise of self-driving technology became clear, those bonuses skyrocketed, even though the goal of building a fully autonomous car remained years away. "By late 2015, the numbers were so big that several veteran members didn't need the job security anymore, making them more open to other opportunities."

Taxes: Hire a pro or do it yourself?

It's decision time, taxpayers, said **Kay Bell** in *USAToday.com*. Should you do your own tax return or hire a professional? The answer, of course, depends on the complexity of your financial life. "If you're a single filer who rents an apartment and your workplace 401(k) is your only investment, tax software should work fine." Most tax software can be purchased for less than \$100, while the average tax preparer charges \$273 to complete a Form 1040 with itemized deductions, plus a state return. If your adjusted gross income is less than \$64,000, you can even use free software through the IRS's Free File program. "But if you run your own business, either as your main job or on the side; buy a home; or inherit property, it's probably a good time to get some personal tax advice and guidance."

Many people still prefer the human touch of a professional tax preparer, but it will cost you, said **Suzanne Woolley** in *Bloomberg.com*. Despite the wide availability of online tax prep software, brick-and-mortar tax businesses still prepare about 57 percent of individual tax returns, down just 3 percentage points from seven years ago. And fees have been rising "steadily." Tax preparers hiked their fees by an average of 6 percent last year, according to the National Society of Accountants,



Tax professionals still prepare 57 percent of individual returns.

and they plan to raise them by another 6 percent for the 2017 filing season. If you do go the professional route, be sure to check that whoever you hire at least has an IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number, or PTIN, on the IRS website. For added peace of mind, look for a bean counter with additional credentials. "The IRS has a database of tax professionals, including CPAs, attorneys, and enrolled agents."

Free tax help is available for some taxpayers, said **Ann Carrns** in *The New York Times*. "The IRS

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers help from trained volunteers for people who generally make \$54,000 or less. Another federal program offers help to taxpayers over 60." You can find details about both programs on IRS.gov. "It's easy to put off the tedious annual chore" of preparing your returns when the deadline is still months away, said **Beth Braverman** in *TheFiscalTimes.com*. But the time to get started is now, whether you're seeking professional help or not. The IRS estimates that it takes most taxpayers about 16 hours to work through a Form 1040, including the time it takes to organize the necessary paperwork. "Experienced tax professionals only get busier as the tax deadline approaches, and some even stop taking new clients within a few weeks of Tax Day."

What the experts say

Protecting your tuition dollars

The soaring cost of college is leading some families to buy tuition insurance, said **Jessica Dickler** in *CNBC.com*. "A college education is now the second-largest expense an individual is likely to handle in a lifetime—right after purchasing a home." Tuition insurance, also known as tuition refund insurance, can protect at least some of that investment in the event a student has to withdraw from school for medical or psychological reasons. Bad grades and expulsion generally aren't covered, "although the extent of coverage varies from plan to plan." Plans are purchased one semester at a time, and the most comprehensive can cost as much as 6 percent of tuition. The insurance can be used to cover nonrefundable tuition, as well as housing and other fees.

A little love for active management

Index funds that mimic the market instead of trying to beat it are all the rage, but they're not infallible, said **Nellie Huang** in *Kiplinger.com*. "Indexing's defenders may scoff," but there have been long stretches in the past when active managers consistently beat their market benchmarks. It's true that over the past five years only 14 percent of actively managed, large-company mutual funds have

beaten the S&P 500 stock market index. But from 2000 through 2009, 63 percent of actively managed large-cap stock funds beat the market, with an average annualized return of 2.4 percent versus an annualized loss of 1 percent for the S&P 500. That suggests that, "in the end, your best strategy may be to own a combination of index and actively managed funds."

Homeownership for cohabitants

"If you're saying 'I do' to a mortgage without marriage, it's important to take steps to protect that investment," said **Kelli Grant** in *CNBC.com*. Unmarried couples should avoid having one partner listed as the sole owner, which "might be attractive" if the other partner has bad credit but also leaves him or her off the title and with very few rights. The most common choice for unmarried partners is to become tenants in common. They then "can own equal or unequal shares, which pass upon their death to a beneficiary of their choosing." It's also a good idea to draft a homeownership contract, spelling out what happens in the event of a breakup. Provisions might include first right of refusal to buy out the other partner's stake, "or agreeing to enter mediation."

Charity of the week

Pollution, overfishing, and habitat degradation all pose unique challenges to the health and well-being of the planet's oceans. To



help promote healthy ocean ecosystems, **Ocean Conservancy** (oceanconservancy.org) funds scientific research, mobilizes citizens to advocate for ocean sustainability, and works to ensure that both fish and the people who work in fishing economies are able to thrive. Founded in 1972, the organization engages coastal communities around the world with their International Coastal Cleanup project; in 2015 alone, nearly 800,000 volunteers collected 18 million pounds of trash along shorelines. The group has also worked to establish marine protected areas in Hawaii and Florida, and helped pass the landmark Marine Life Protection Act in California, which aims to conserve and rebuild marine ecosystems.

Each charity we feature has earned a four-star overall rating from Charity Navigator, which rates not-for-profit organizations on the strength of their finances, their governance practices, and the transparency of their operations. Four stars is the group's highest rating.

Issue of the week: President Trump's dollar dilemma

Well, now we know what keeps President Trump awake at night, said **Taylor Tepper** in *Money.com*. According to *The Huffington Post*, the president recently placed a 3 a.m. phone call to his then-national security adviser Mike Flynn and asked whether a strong dollar or a weak dollar was better for the U.S. economy. "Flynn reportedly demurred," suggesting Trump call an economist instead. But it's a legitimate question, especially with the greenback hovering at a 14-year high. The simplest explanation is that a strong dollar makes foreign goods like German-made cars and shirts from China cheaper to buy for U.S. consumers. But a strong dollar hurts American manufacturers, whose exports become more expensive for overseas customers. "To answer the president's question, then, it all depends on who you are."

This debate has long consumed economists, said **Chelsey Dulaney** in *The Wall Street Journal*. The main benefit of a strong dollar is that it reflects confidence in the U.S. economy. "But if the dollar gets too strong, it can unleash a slew of negative consequences for both the U.S. and economies around the world." A surging greenback makes commodities like oil, which is priced in dollars, more expensive. Developing countries also hold more than \$315 billion in dollar-denominated debt, which "becomes more expensive to pay back when the dollar rises." And because we live in a global economy, a foreign nation's debt woes can quickly cause economic pain in the U.S.



Strong or weak? It's a puzzle.

The president now has to make a choice, said **Matthew Yglesias** in *Vox.com*. Just last month he declared that the strong dollar is "killing us" by making U.S. manufacturers less competitive. And "the high price of the dollar over the past three years is a key reason why American manufacturing employment has flatlined." Any move by the Trump administration that reduces the dollar's value would likely provide a short-term boost to the manufacturing sector. But it would also cut the purchasing power of all Americans, most of whom don't work in factories or live in factory towns. So, that's the trade-off. "If you want to improve living standards for most Americans, a strong dollar is better. But if you want to deliver on your campaign promises to the Midwest, you probably want a weaker one."

Trump might want to devalue the dollar, but his policies could make the currency even stronger, said **Neil Irwin** in *The New York Times*. Fears that Trump will tear up the North American Free

Trade Agreement have already caused the Canadian and Mexican currencies to drop in value against the dollar. The GOP's proposed border adjustment tax—which taxes imports but makes revenues from exports deductible—could further increase the dollar's value by as much 20 percent. And if the administration's plan to cut taxes while boosting infrastructure spending comes to fruition, the Federal Reserve would likely increase interest rates. Global investors seeking greater returns would then shift their assets to the U.S. If that happens, the dollar will keep on climbing, no matter what else the president does.

Why coders are the new autoworkers

Clive Thompson
Wired

What if computer programmers are the next generation of blue-collar workers? asked Clive Thompson. "When I ask people to picture a coder, they usually imagine someone like Mark Zuckerberg." But the typical programmer isn't a hoodie-wearing brainiac who builds "an app in a feverish 72-hour programming jag" with the aim of getting insanely rich. This programmer probably doesn't even live in Silicon Valley, which "employs only 8 percent of the nation's coders." Most programmers work 9-to-5 jobs doing important, unglamorous work, like writing code for their local bank. It's not a path to fame and fortune, but it is a solidly middle-class job. The average

IT worker in the U.S. earns about \$81,000 a year, "more than double the national average for all jobs," and the field is set to expand by 12 percent from 2014 to 2024, outpacing most other professions. Coding today isn't a "high stakes, sexy affair," but "the equivalent of skilled work at a Chrysler plant." Teachers and businesses should wake up to that new reality, stop urging kids to take expensive four-year computer science degrees, and instead push for more coding in high schools and community colleges. We'll always need superstar innovators to devise new fields, like artificial intelligence. But most programming doesn't require genius, just hard, honest work.

Big companies are getting stingier

Walter Frick
Harvard Business Review

"For much of the 20th century, workers at big companies were paid better than workers at small ones," said Walter Frick. An employee of a corporation with more than 500 workers generally took home 30 to 50 percent more than someone in the same role at company with fewer than 25 employees. But since the late 1980s, the pay advantage for workers at big companies has disappeared—although not for those in high-salary jobs—and researchers say that change has helped fuel the rise in income inequality. One possible explanation for the demise of the salary gap is that big companies used to directly employ more kinds of workers. They felt pressure to pay cafeteria workers

and janitors above market rate "because inequality was bad for morale." But many low-level positions were outsourced in the 1990s as companies focused on generating more profits for shareholders and firms brought in cheaper contractors. An alternate explanation, put forward in an Obama administration report from last year, is that the biggest companies no longer fear competition, and so can get away with paying lower wages than they would in a competitive labor market. What's clear is that something in the job market has changed. Economists used to believe that companies that could afford to pay higher wages would do so. "That no longer seems to be the case."

The vocal virtuoso who crossed genres

Al Jarreau
1940–2017

Al Jarreau was an orchestra unto himself, with a soaring, lissome tenor and

dazzling technique. A vibrant performer onstage, Jarreau was nothing if not eclectic, winning seven Grammy Awards in three different categories: jazz, pop, and R&B. He was renowned for his virtuoso mimicry of musical instruments and sound effects, which earned him the nickname “Acrobat of Scat.” After Jarreau found commercial success with his 1981 album *Breakin’ Away*—which featured his breezy hit single “We’re in This Love Together”—some critics derided his accessibly smooth style. But Jarreau took pride in his “jazz attitude,” which he described as an openness “to each and every moment as a chance to create something different.”

Born in Milwaukee, Jarreau grew up in a musical family, said *The New York Times*. “His father, a minister, was a fine singer; his mother played the piano in church.” Jarreau started singing at age 4, and later performed “with street-corner harmony groups and local jazz bands.” Among Jarreau’s early favorites were Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughan, and Ella Fitzgerald, “but his two greatest influences were jazz scat artist Jon Hendricks” and the honey-voiced Johnny



Mathis, said *The Washington Post*. After earning a master’s degree in vocational rehabilitation in 1964, he moved to San Francisco, supporting himself as a counselor for the disabled while singing in jazz clubs at night. Beginning in 1968, Jarreau devoted himself full-time to music. “Working with a Brazilian guitarist, he learned to fill empty musical spaces with impressive improvisations,” and soon “seemed at home in any musical style.”

As his career took off, “Jarreau earned comparisons to jazz greats such as Billy Eckstine,” said the *Los Angeles Times*. But his 1975 debut album, *We Got By*, “evoked soul great Bill Withers.” Jarreau’s next big release, the 1977 live double LP *Look to the Rainbow*, included his interpretation of the Dave Brubeck Quartet’s jazz classic “Take Five,” in which “he breathlessly emulates three or four different instruments.” That album would earn Jarreau his first Grammy for jazz vocal performance. After *Breakin’ Away* went platinum, Jarreau seemed to embrace a “poppier R&B sound.” But he always defied easy classification, crossing boundaries and touring tirelessly until two weeks before his death. “Music is such a balm,” he said in 2012. “It’s such a heartbeat, like blood thrumming through the womb.”

The scientist who helped develop the MRI scanner

Peter Mansfield
1933–2017

A school careers counselor once told Peter Mansfield that he wasn’t clever enough to become a scientist. That assessment proved incorrect. Three decades later, the British physicist helped develop the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, an innovation that revolutionized hospital diagnostics and earned him the 2003 Nobel Prize for medicine.

A noisy, doughnut-shaped machine, the body-length scanner creates 3-D images of bones and soft tissue—a crucial tool for identifying everything from torn muscles to cancerous tumors. “Most people don’t think about where MRI scanners come from,” said Mansfield. “But I feel very pleased and proud when I receive letters from patients, thanking me for saving their lives.”

Born in London to a laborer father and a waitress mother, Mansfield spent much of his childhood in poverty, said *The Washington Post*. He developed an interest in science during World War II, when he collected shrapnel from German rockets that fell on the capital, but had to leave school at 15, and became a printer’s apprentice. But he “attended night school and at 18 found a job with the rocket propulsion department of Britain’s Supply



Ministry.” At 23, Mansfield began studying physics at London’s Queen Mary College, where his interest shifted from rockets to nuclear magnetic resonance. After a stint teaching at the University of Illinois, he joined England’s University of Nottingham in 1964, “where he remained for the rest of his career,” said *The Times* (U.K.). His design for the MRI machine built on research by Paul Lauterbur, an

American scientist who discovered how to use magnetism to make hydrogen atoms in different tissues emit a characteristic “note.” Mansfield “worked out how to convert these faint, resonating ‘notes’ into finely detailed images.” In 1976, the physicist became the first person to undergo a full-body MRI scan—despite fears it could give him a heart attack. “Today,” he said, “I don’t think we’d be allowed to do that experiment.”

Mansfield “went on to seek faster scans,” said *The New York Times*, and developed “functional MRI, which depicts activity in the brain.” Patents on his technology made him rich, but worldwide recognition only came with the Nobel Prize, which he shared with Lauterbur. “I started work on MRI back in 1972,” said Mansfield. “It does feel a little strange to get the award 30 years later.”

The Little Caesars founder who tirelessly promoted Detroit

Mike Ilitch and his wife Marian had a net worth of \$5.4 billion. The pizza chain they founded in a Detroit suburb, Little Caesars, and

Mike Ilitch
1929–2017

its spin-offs today employ 23,000 people. But for the sports-mad

Ilitch, the numbers that really counted were 4 and 2. Under his ownership, the Detroit Red Wings hockey team won four Stanley Cup championships, while his Detroit Tigers enjoyed two trips to the World Series. Ilitch freely used his checkbook to sign top players—he said he wasn’t bothered by the Tigers’ \$138 million payroll at the end of a disappointing 2008 season. “I’m not afraid to go out and spend money,” Ilitch explained. “I’m not going to change my ways.”

Born in Detroit to Macedonian immigrants, Ilitch served four years in the Marine Corps and spent several years playing minor league baseball, said the *Detroit Free Press*. When a knee injury ended his hopes of joining the big leagues, Ilitch and his wife opened their first Little Caesars, in 1959. Other outlets followed, and over the next three decades, with the help of quirky TV ads announcing a “Pizza! Pizza!” two-for-one deal, the firm grew into the “world’s largest carry-out pizza chain.”

Ilitch paid \$8 million for the struggling Red Wings in 1982, said *The Washington Post*, and purchased the Tigers a decade later. As other businesses fled an ailing Detroit, Ilitch bought the downtown Fox Theatre, turning it into a popular entertainment hub, and moved Little Caesars’ world headquarters to the town, “helping spur a commercial revival in Motor City.” Some observers credited Ilitch’s success to his brains and drive, but he said there was a simpler reason for his achievements: “We believed in the pizza.”

Awaiting a revival in Trump country

Crawford County, Wis., was one of the Democratic strongholds that helped give Donald Trump the White House, said journalist Claire Galofaro. Now residents are waiting for the president's promised economic renaissance.

SHE TUGGED 13 envelopes from a cabinet above the stove, each one labeled with a different debt: the house payment, the student loans, the vacuum cleaner she bought on credit.

Lydia Holt and her husband tuck money into these envelopes with each paycheck to whittle away at what they owe. They both earn about \$10 an hour, and with two kids, there are usually some they can't fill. She did the math; at this rate, they'll be paying these same bills for 87 years.

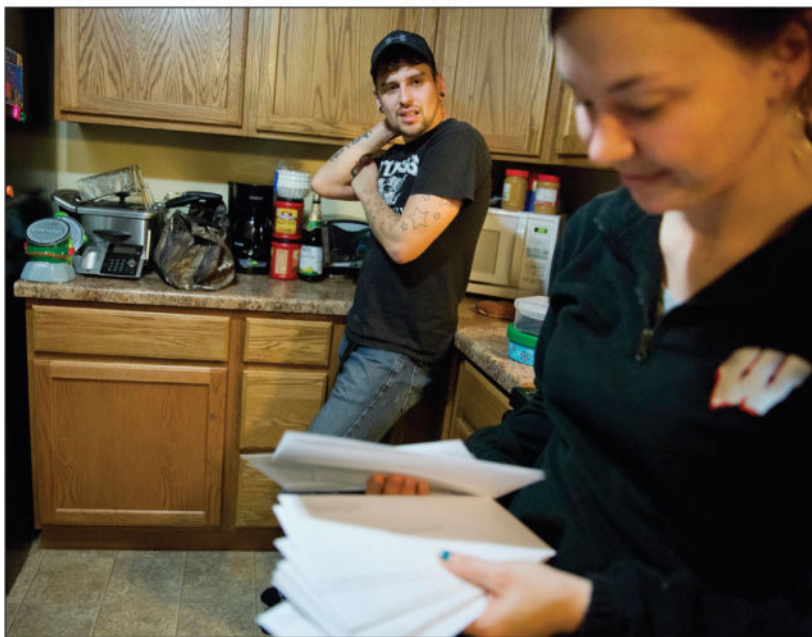
In 2012, Holt voted for Barack Obama because he promised her change, but she feels that change hasn't reached her here, in Prairie du Chien, Wis. So last year she chose a presidential candidate unlike any she'd ever seen, the billionaire businessman who promised to help America, and people like her, win again.

Many of her neighbors did, too—so many that for the first time in more than 30 years, Crawford County, a sturdy brick in the once mighty Big Blue Wall, abandoned the Democratic Party, and that wall crumbled. The rural county lent Donald Trump 3,844 votes toward his win. More came from formerly blue counties to the north and to the south, and on and on. Some 50 counties stretching 300 miles down the Mississippi River—through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois—transformed in one election season into Trump country.

They voted for Trump for an array of reasons, and the list of grievances they hope he now corrects is long and exacting: stagnant wages, the cost of health care, a hard-to-define feeling that things are not getting better, at least not for people like them.

Here in Prairie du Chien, residents often recite two facts about their hometown, the first one proudly: It is the second-oldest community in the state. The next is that it's also one of the poorest.

There are no rusted-out factories to embody this discontent. The main street of Prairie du Chien butts up against the



Kreig and Lydia Holt divide their earnings among 13 envelopes, each for a different debt.

Mississippi River and bustles with tourists come summer. Pickup trucks crowd parking lots at the 3M plant and Cabela's distribution center, where hundreds work. Just a few vacant storefronts hint at the seething resentment that life still seems harder here than it should be.

In this place that astonished America when it helped hand Trump the White House, many of those who chose him greeted the frenetic opening acts of his presidency with a shrug. Immigration is not their top concern, and so they watched with some trepidation as Trump signed orders to build a wall on the Mexican border and bar immigrants from seven Muslim countries, sowing chaos around the world.

Among them is a woman who works for \$10.50 an hour in a sewing factory, who still admires Obama, bristles at Trump's bluster, but can't afford health insurance. And the dairy farmer who thinks Trump is a jerk—"somebody needs to get some Gorilla Glue and glue his lips shut"—but has watched his profits plummet and was willing to take the risk.

There's a man who owns an engine repair shop and struggles to keep the lights on, and a bartender who cringes when he sees "Made in China" printed on American goods.

There's also Holt, who makes \$400 a week as a lawyer's assistant and whose husband doesn't do much better at a car parts store. She is enthusiastic that Trump started quickly doing the things he said he would, because she worries that by the time their sons grow up there will be nothing left for them here.

In this corner of Middle America, in this one, small slice of the nation that sent Trump to Washington, they are watching and they are waiting, their hopes pinned on his promised economic renaissance. And if four years from now the change he

pledged hasn't found them here, the people of Crawford County say, they might change again to someone else.

KATHERINE CRAMER, a political science professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, coined a name for what's happened in her state's rural pockets: the politics of resentment.

She spent years traveling to small towns and talking to people at diners and gas stations. And when she asked which political party best represented them, their answers almost always sounded something like, "Are you crazy, lady? Neither party is representing people around here."

"People have been looking for a politician who is going to change that, going to listen to them, do it differently," she said. "People a lot of times don't have specifics about what that means. They just know that however government is operating currently is not working for them."

In Crawford County, with just 16,000 residents, that dissatisfaction stems from feeling left behind as other places prosper. There are plenty of jobs in retail or on factory floors, but it's hard to find one that pays more than \$12 an hour. Ambitious young people leave and don't come back. Rural schools are dwindling, and with them a sense of pride and purpose.

Still, much of the economic anxiety is based not on measurable decay, but rather on a perception that life is decaying, said Jim Bowman, director of the county's Economic Development Corporation.

There are higher-paying jobs—in welding, for example—but companies can't find enough workers with the right training, Bowman said. The county's \$44,000-a-year median household income is \$9,000 less than the state's, but the cost of living is lower, too.

Just 15 percent of adults have college degrees, half the national average, and yet the ratio of people living in poverty is below that of the country as a whole.

Yet for many here, it doesn't feel that way. "If you ask anybody here, we'll all tell you the same thing: We're tired of living like this. We've been railroaded, run over by the politicians and run over by laws," said Mark Berns, leaning through the service window in the small-engine repair shop downtown that he can barely keep open anymore. He drives a 14-year-old truck with 207,000 miles on it because he doesn't make enough profit to buy a new one.

Berns watched Trump's first days in office half hopeful, half frightened. "He jumps on every bandwagon there is. It's a mess," he said, bemoaning what he described as a quantity-over-quality, "sign, sign, sign" approach to governing. "I just hope we get the jobs back and the economy on its feet, so everybody can get a decent job and make a decent living, and have that chance at the American dream that's gone away over the past eight or 10 years."

MARLENE KRAMER GETS to work before the sun comes up and spends her days sitting at a sewing machine, stitching sports uniforms for \$10.50 an hour.

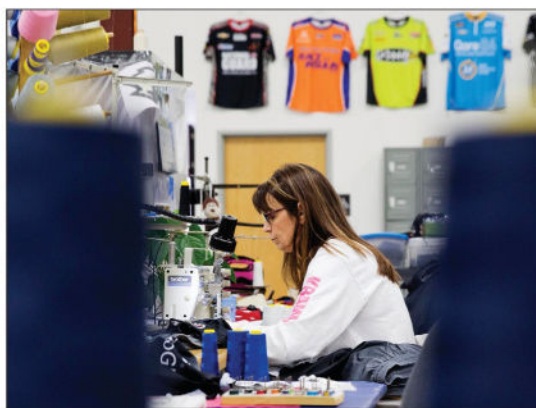
Kramer, who voted twice for Obama, used to watch Trump on *Celebrity Apprentice*. "I said to myself, 'Ugh, I can't stand him.'" When he announced his candidacy, she thought it was a joke. "Then my husband said to me, 'Just think, everything he touches seems to turn to money.'" And she changed her mind.

She's 54, and she's worked since she was 14, all hard jobs: feeding cows, pulling weeds, standing all day on factory floors. Now it's the sewing shop, where she's happy and gets to sit. But there's no health insurance.

Her bosses, brothers Todd and Scott Yeomans, opened the factory 12 years ago. They said they're trying to do the right thing by making sportswear with American-

made fabrics and American labor. But they compete against factories overseas.

They'd like to offer insurance. The other day, a trusted worker quit for a job with benefits. But they've run the numbers and it would cost \$200,000 a year—far more than they can spend.



Marlene Kramer sews uniforms for \$10.50 an hour.

Kramer said she's glad the Affordable Care Act has helped millions get insurance, but it hasn't helped her. She and her husband were stunned to find premiums over \$1,000 a month. Her daughter recently moved into their house with her five children, so there's no money to spare. They opted to pay the penalty of \$2,000, and pray they don't get sick until Trump, she hopes, keeps his promise to replace the law with something better.

Some rural Wisconsin Democrats also think their party's leaders are among those who stopped paying attention to those just trying to get by. On the same day that Trump took the oath of office, a group of them huddled in the back room of a tavern, still trying to grasp how the election went awry.

Bob Welsh met Hillary Clinton at a rope line in Iowa and asked her to visit Wisconsin. But she didn't come a single time during her campaign against Trump, and Welsh thinks that confirmed in the minds of many that Democrats are uninterested in white working people.

Welsh wears flannel shirts and suspenders. He grew up on a farm, worked as a herdsman, and drove a school bus until he was 76 years old. He's 78 now, and knows his neighbors as kind, hardworking people, and could barely believe they voted for a man he finds reprehensible. But the left-right, blue-red vitriol that has cleaved the country has not left the same scars here, where wives reported not knowing how their own husbands voted and husbands said they never asked their wives.

Welsh said he hopes Trump finds a way to keep his promise to build his friends

better lives. "If he does that then he'll change my mind," he said. "And I'll be the first to admit it."

BERNARD MORAVITS HOSED the mud and cow dung off the boots pulled up over his jeans and headed for his truck, to drive to town to talk to a banker about keeping his farm afloat.

Moravits—everyone calls him Tinker—works on his farm outside of town at least 12 hours every day, and usually a lot longer. He diversified to minimize risk and has dairy and beef cattle, and acre after acre of corn, beans, alfalfa. The price of milk and agricultural goods has plummeted, and it's hard to keep things running.

Change is what he looked to Obama for and now expects from Trump. He wants the president to reduce red tape and renegotiate trade deals to benefit American farmers. And he hopes people make more money and spend more money, which eventually trickles down to him.

"I think he's a shrewd businessman," he said. "He's been broke several times. He keeps bouncing back, and he knows how big business works."

He has several choice words for Trump's move to build "his stupid wall." Moravits employs Hispanic workers who have been with him 15 years. He built them apartments. He trusts them to do a dirty, difficult job that he says white people aren't willing to do. "A lot of people don't treat them like people," he grumbled.

Unlike many transfixed by Trump's presidency, Moravits doesn't stay up-to-the-minute on the news. In the morning, he checks the agriculture prices and the weather. As protests over Trump's immigration ban raged, Moravits wasn't paying attention.

He took over this farm at 18 years old, when his father died of an aneurysm while milking cows. He plans to die here, too. He'll retire when "they close the casket lid."

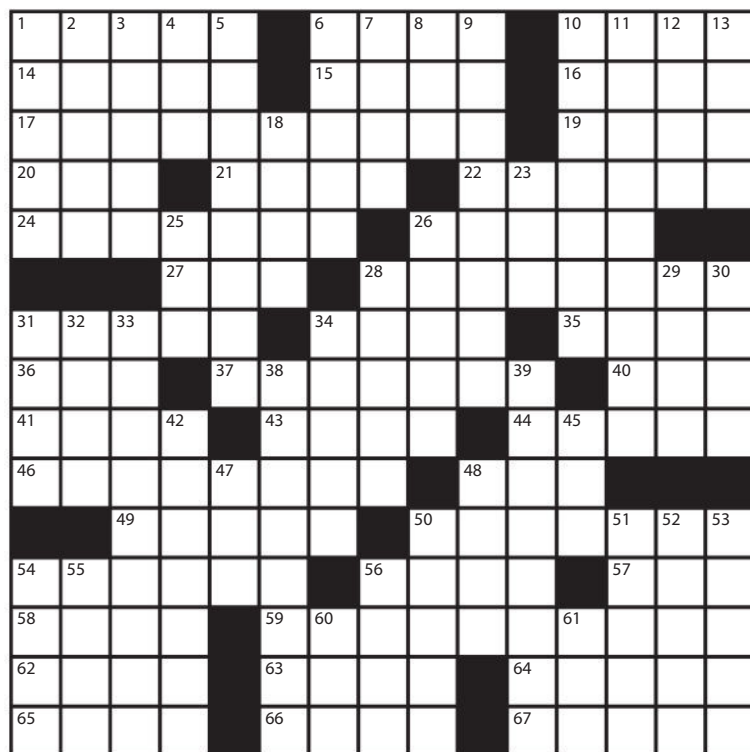
But if nothing changes and changes soon he might have to borrow against his equity.

Moravits isn't sure Trump is going to "Make America Great Again" for farmers. But he feels he had to take the gamble.

"He might have us in a war in two weeks," he said. "We'll come back here in six months, drink a 30-pack of Busch Light and talk, because no one knows now what's gonna happen." He laughed, then shrugged, and pantomimed rolling the dice.

Excerpted from an article that was originally published by the Associated Press. Reprinted with permission.

Crossword No. 396: The Long Haul by Matt Gaffney



ACROSS

- 1 Tiniest
6 Not inept
10 Shot in the dark
14 Doubleday of baseball fame
15 Spanish word for the pawn in chess
16 Quote the work of
17 On Feb. 5, Qatar Airways inaugurated the world's longest commercial flight, a 9,031-mile jaunt from Qatar to this country
19 Neighbor of Yemen
20 Mound metric
21 Heidi of 22-Across
22 *America's Got* ____
24 Golf shots
26 Highest capital city in the world
27 Make like new
28 2 for 8, e.g.
31 Waste maker, it's said
34 Warren before Warren Burger
35 Foot part
36 Thespian Wallach
37 The Feb. 5 flight took just over this many hours
40 Landing approximation, for short
41 Rupture
43 Brooklyn shooters
44 Illegal ignition
46 Wedding list
48 *World on Fire* author Chua

DOWN

- 49 Plus
50 Road with no lights
54 Stuff in a mill
56 Verbalized
57 "____ you ready?"
58 Orchestra instrument
59 On the Feb. 5 flight, its crew served passengers over 2,000 of these
62 Malone or Marx
63 Theater award
64 Number of days gone by?
65 Their pupils aren't too bright
66 Partners for pops
67 Prepares for the future
1 Driver's divisions
2 Late rater Roger
3 Assassinated Sadat
4 "____ who?"
5 They tell one another to live long and prosper
6 Top grade
7 Ray of the sun
8 Acting Chaney
9 Sofa's neighbor
10 Peter of *Newhart* and *Girls*
11 The Feb. 5 flight traveled through 10 of these
12 ____ impasse
13 Inclination
18 Trivial Trebek
23 Mimic
25 Frequently, poetically
26 Tempts

- 28 Full of snide remarks
29 Double quadri-
30 Compared with
31 Mannheim man
32 "Hard ____!" (sailor's shout)
33 But Qatar Airways' record may not stand, as this country's national airline has announced it will fly nonstop to JFK Airport beginning next year
34 Put forth
38 System for speaking
39 Show who you know
42 Quashes, as a rumor
45 Slices in the deli
47 Compass dir.
48 Without much water
50 Gets weaker
51 Title fish of 1988
52 Alan in *Little Miss Sunshine*
53 Thumbs-ups
54 Nudge
55 Seller's site
56 Loaded Carlos
60 "But we can negotiate that price," in three letters
61 Not well

The Week Contest

This week's question: A Palestinian barber has developed an unusual way to straighten and style his customers' hair: He sets their locks on fire. If this innovative hairdresser were to start a chain of salons named after his unorthodox technique, what would it be called?

Last week's contest: A Dutch zoo is hoping to increase mating among captive orangutans by giving female primates an iPad loaded with photos of hunky males and letting them tap on prospective partners. If a Silicon Valley firm were to develop a dating app for single simians, what name could it give the program?

THE WINNER: eHarmonkey
Amy Heesacker, Athens, Ga.

SECOND PLACE: WhatsApe
Keith Gadway, Ann Arbor, Mich.

THIRD PLACE: Prime Mates for Primates
Jeff Hanna, Chattanooga, Tenn.

For runners-up and complete contest rules, please go to theweek.com/contest.

How to enter: Submissions should be emailed to contest@theweek.com. Please include your name, address, and daytime telephone number for verification; this week, type "Burning hair" in the subject line. Entries are due by noon, Eastern Time, Tuesday, Feb. 21. Winners will appear on the Puzzle Page next issue and at theweek.com/puzzles on Friday, Feb. 24. In the case of identical or similar entries, the first one received gets credit.

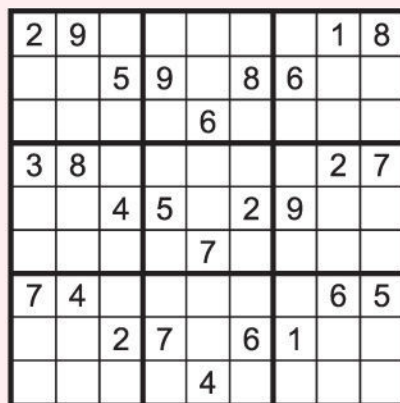


◀ The winner gets a one-year subscription to *The Week*.

Sudoku

Fill in all the boxes so that each row, column, and outlined square includes all the numbers from 1 through 9.

Difficulty:
super-hard



Find the solutions to all *The Week's* puzzles online: www.theweek.com/puzzle.

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The Week (ISSN 1533-8304) is published weekly except for one week in each January, July, August and December.
The Week is published by The Week Publications, Inc., 55 West 39th Street, New York, NY 10018. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to The Week, P.O. Box 62290, Tampa, FL 33662-2290. One-year subscription rates: U.S. \$75; Canada \$90; all other countries \$128 in prepaid U.S. funds. Publications Mail Agreement No. 40031590, Registration No. 140467846. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to P.O. Box 503, RPO West Beaver Creek, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4R6.
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