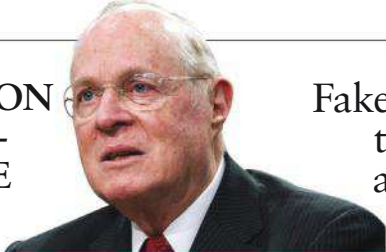


CONTROVERSY

PUNTING ON WEDDING-CAKE CASE

p.6 Justice Anthony Kennedy



BRIEFING

Faked videos that look authentic

p.11



TALKING POINTS

Was Bee as bad as Roseanne?

p.17



THE WEEK

THE BEST OF THE U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

A royal decree

Trump's claim he cannot be questioned or obstruct justice, and can pardon himself

p.4



JUNE 15, 2018 VOLUME 18 ISSUE 877

Your Business Becomes Our Business.™



That's why we make
more eCommerce
deliveries to homes
than anyone
in the country.

Learn more at usps.com/shippingforyou



PRIORITY:YOU

Trademarks are used with permission. Appearance does not constitute a USPS endorsement.
United States Postal Service. All Rights Reserved. The Eagle Logo is among the many trademarks of the U.S. Postal Service.®

Editor's letter

The public mea culpa has become a mainstay of the news cycle. Everyone, it seems, has an apology for bad behavior, from Starbucks to Mark Zuckerberg to Roseanne Barr to Samantha Bee (see Talking Points). Credit, or blame, social media and the outrage cycle that now dominates national discourse, where every gaffe and offense results in demands for firings and punishment. A simple “sorry” is no longer good enough; the quality of the contrition matters, too. Roseanne’s apology last week was deemed insincere after she tried to blame sleeping pills for a racist outburst; Bill Clinton displayed familiar self-righteousness and self-pity when he insisted he didn’t owe Monica Lewinsky an apology. And of course there’s President Trump, whose frequent demands for apologies—from ABC, ESPN, the intelligence community, *The New York Times*, *Saturday Night Live*, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and the cast of *Hamilton*, to name just a few—stand in stark contrast to his refusal to ever say sorry himself.

The endless demand for public apologies, even over the smallest slights, risks cheapening them and robbing them of their power. We’ve also seen vividly in the past year just how excruciating bad apologies can be, as powerful men implicated by #MeToo tried to deflect or minimize their own wrongdoing. But it’s worth remembering why we as humans crave apologies in the first place. Fundamentally, they signal that we share core values about right and wrong, and that we agree as a society on what we can reasonably expect from others in terms of civility, respect, and kindness. That’s not an easy conversation to have at the best of times—let alone in our polarized environment, where the slightest disagreements are construed as attacks on one’s character or patriotism. But if we don’t keep trying to have that conversation, and to set down markers about what behavior is acceptable and what should be grounds for shame, I imagine we’ll all be sorry before long.

Carolyn O’Hara
Managing editor

NEWS

- 4 Main stories**
Trump’s claim of sweeping presidential powers; a trade war erupts between the U.S. and key allies
- 6 Controversy of the week**
Who was the real winner of the Supreme Court’s gay wedding cake case?
- 7 The U.S. at a glance**
Virginia votes to expand Medicaid; Democrats cheered by California primary results
- 8 The world at a glance**
A deadly volcanic eruption in Guatemala; Iran ready to up uranium enrichment
- 10 People**
Jane Fonda on learning to live without men; Anthony Hopkins’ anger
- 11 Briefing**
How “deepfake” videos will make it difficult to trust your own eyes
- 12 Best U.S. columns**
Obama’s smug belief that he was ahead of his time; Trump wants NFL players to treat him like a king
- 14 Best European columns**
Italy’s new government of opposites
- 16 Talking points**
Trump and North Korea start talking again; Puerto Rico’s hurricane death toll; Samantha Bee’s turn in the outrage cycle



Baker Jack Phillips celebrating the Supreme Court’s 7-2 verdict (p.6)

ARTS

- 21 Books**
The hardscrabble life of America’s last cowboys
- 22 Author of the week**
Seymour Hersh looks back on a life of exposés
- 23 Art & Music**
Bodys Isek Kingelez’s utopian cityscapes
- 24 Film**
An ancestral horror haunts Toni Collette in *Hereditary*



Jane Fonda (p.10)

LEISURE

- 26 Food & Drink**
How to make the perfect Moroccan tagine
- 27 Travel**
A science vacation in Switzerland
- 30 Consumer**
The best apps for protecting your privacy online

BUSINESS

- 31 News at a glance**
Facebook under fire over China connection; Howard Schultz leaves Starbucks
- 32 Making money**
How to tell if you’re financially ready to retire
- 34 Best columns**
Unemployment dips to a new low; the Volcker Rule gets a welcome update

THE WEEK

Editor-in-chief: William Falk
Managing editors: Theunis Bates, Carolyn O’Hara
Deputy editor/International: Susan Caskie
Deputy editor/Arts: Chris Mitchell
Senior editors: Alex Dalenberg, Anthony L. Fisher, Danny Funt, Andrew Murfett, Dale Obbie, Hallie Stiller
Art director: Dan Josephs
Photo editor: Loren Talbot
Copy editors: Jane A. Halsey, Jay Wilkins
Researchers: Christina Colizza, Joyce Chu
Contributing editors: Ryan Devlin, Bruno Maddox
EVP, publisher: John Guehl
Sales development director: Samuel Homburger
Account directors: Shelley Adler, Lauren Peterson
Account manager: Alison Fernandez
Midwest director: Lauren Ross
Southeast director: Jana Robinson
West Coast directors: James Horan, Rebecca Treadwell
Integrated marketing director: Jennifer Freire
Senior integrated marketing manager: Kelly Dyer
Integrated marketing manager: Reisa Feigenbaum
Marketing design director: Joshua Moore
Marketing designer: Triona Moynihan
Research and insights manager: Joan Cheung
Sales & marketing coordinator: Carla Pacheco-Muevecela
Senior digital account manager: Yuliya Spektorsky
Programmatic manager: George Porter
Digital planners: Jennifer Riddell, Talia Sabag
Chief operating & financial officer: Kevin E. Morgan
Director of financial reporting: Arielle Starkman
EVP, consumer marketing & products: Sara O’Connor
Consumer marketing director: Leslie Guarnieri
HR manager: Joy Hart
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo
Adviser: Ian Leggett
Chairman: John M. Lagana
U.K. founding editor: Jolyon Connell
Company founder: Felix Dennis

Visit us at TheWeek.com.
 For customer service go to www.TheWeek.com/service or phone us at 1-877-245-8151.
 Renew a subscription at www.TheWeek.com or give a gift at www.GiveTheWeek.com.

Trump's assertion of unlimited authority

What happened

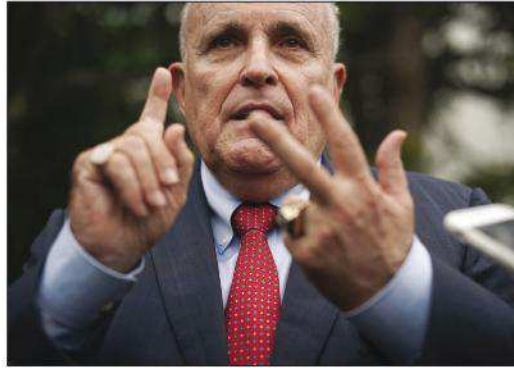
In a confidential, 20-page memo, President Trump's legal team told special counsel Robert Mueller that the president has limitless authority over federal investigations and thus cannot be charged with obstructing justice. The January 2018 document, obtained by *The New York Times*, asserts that the president could at any time "terminate the inquiry" into Russian interference in the 2016 election, or pardon anyone under investigation. It also contends that Trump cannot be subpoenaed and that submitting to an interview would demean the office of the presidency, which must remain "sacred and above the fray of shifting political winds and gamesmanship."

In a stunning revelation, the letter acknowledged the president dictated Donald Trump Jr.'s misleading July 2017 statement regarding his meeting with a Russian informant at Trump Tower during the 2016 campaign—something the president, his press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, and his attorneys had previously repeatedly denied. That statement said the meeting was primarily about "adoptions" of Russian children, neglecting to mention that Russians connected to the Kremlin had promised damaging information about Hillary Clinton. "This is the reason you don't let the president testify," Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani told ABC News. "Our recollection keeps changing."

Trump took his frustrations to Twitter, declaring "an absolute right to PARDON myself" and slamming the investigation as a Democrat-led "never ending Witch Hunt" that's "totally UNCONSTITUTIONAL!" The president also tweeted that he would have nominated someone other than Jeff Sessions as attorney general had he known Sessions would recuse himself from overseeing the Russia investigation. Trump has repeatedly pressured Sessions to reverse that recusal, *The New York Times* reported—requests that Mueller has made part of his obstruction investigation.

What the editorials said

"Like kings and emperors of ages past," Trump not only thinks he is above the law—"he thinks he is the law," said the *Los Angeles Times*. Trump is warning Mueller that any attempt to prosecute him, his aides, or his family is a waste of time, as he'll just pardon everyone, including himself, and "move on." Sadly, this arrogance is not surprising, said *The New York Times*. Trump has long been drawn to the "monarchical grandeur" of the office but has little understanding of the constitutional limits to presidential power. Even more troubling, he's now accusing Mueller of "meddling" in the November midterms by refusing to end his investigation. This sets up a Trump claim that if Democrats take control of the House, the election was "rigged" and invalid.



Giuliani: 'Our recollection keeps changing.'

Trump's lawyers make many "highly debatable" assertions, said the *National Review*, but their memo got two major points correct. Despite collecting "voluminous documentary evidence" and testimony, Mueller has yet to present a "viable criminal case against the president," nor has he "justified the extraordinary measure of seeking the president's testimony." Absent a "smoking gun," Mueller should wrap up the obstruction probe of the president rather than keep looking for one.

What the columnists said

Trump's lawyers have made an "extreme and outrageous" argument, said **Indira Lakshmanan** in *The Boston Globe*. Despite "jaw-dropping" evidence of Trump campaign contacts with the Russians and an ongoing cover-up, the president's legal team is insisting the president has absolute power to end the inquiry for any reason. This is reminiscent of Richard Nixon's claim that "when the president does it that means it's not illegal," and King Louis XIV's notorious decree "L'état, c'est moi" ("I am the state"). This memo is essentially an admission of guilt, said **Eugene Robinson** in *The Washington Post*. Trump's own attorneys concede he lied about meetings between his campaign and Russians, fired people investigating his aides, and can't be trusted to answer questions. Their legal defense: "None of that matters," because Trump has absolute, unchecked power.

Actually, Trump's lawyers are right, said **Michael Graham** in *CBSNews.com*. The president has more important things to do than preparing for an interview with Mueller, especially with a majority of Americans considering the Russia investigation to be "politically motivated." The public wants the president focused on the economy, trade, and national security. "Why shouldn't Trump issue a pardon today and move on with being president?" Besides, Trump's strategy is modeled after the one that worked

for Bill Clinton, said **Byron York** in *Spectator USA*. The Clinton White House relentlessly attacked independent counsel Ken Starr and accused him of presiding over a partisan "witch hunt." With Trump supporters "increasingly confident the big collusion charges just aren't coming," the president has the upper hand.

For now, he might, said **Greg Sargent** in *The Washington Post*, but Trump's assertion of "near-dictatorial powers" indicates how "weak and precarious" his position has become. Senate investigators have already shown that just before Trump Jr. met with the Russians, he made or received a phone call from a blocked number. Was the call from Donald Sr., who had a blocked Trump Tower number? Mueller knows. Based on the president's growing hysteria, the special counsel knows a lot more than the public does not.

What next?

If Mueller decides to test Trump's assertions in court, said **Abigail Tracy** in *VanityFair.com*, the president is likely to lose. Most constitutional scholars and legal experts dismiss the president's insistence he cannot obstruct justice, and precedent suggests that Trump can indeed be subpoenaed. As for pardoning himself, that has never been tested, but Republicans are already warning against it. House Speaker Paul Ryan said Trump should "obviously" not pardon himself, adding, "No one is above the law." To get Trump's testimony, Mueller might not even need to take the president to court, said **Ruth Marcus** in *The Washington Post*. When Starr subpoenaed Clinton in 1998, the president backed down and agreed to a four-hour interview at the White House, avoiding the dangerous and diminishing spectacle of testifying before a grand jury. If I were advising Mueller, "I'd suggest it's subpoena time."

Trump's tariffs ignite a trade war with allies

What happened

The Trump administration sparked a trade war with America's closest allies this week, after it imposed steep tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, and the European Union—which immediately retaliated with targeted tariffs on U.S. products. Trump's tariffs, 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum, were first announced in March, but the administration gave several key allies temporary exemptions while they negotiated deals with the U.S. When those talks failed to make rapid progress, Trump ordered the duties imposed. "The U.S. has been taken advantage of for many decades on trade," the president said. "Those days are over." Canada, Mexico, and the EU retaliated quickly, announcing nearly \$20 billion worth of import duties in total on U.S. goods, including pork, steel, bourbon, peanut butter, and orange juice. Some prominent Republicans attacked Trump's tariffs as wrongheaded. "This is dumb," Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) said. "You don't treat allies the same way you treat opponents."



Bourbon and pork: U.S. goods hit with retaliatory tariffs.

Trump insisted that the tariffs were needed to protect U.S. national security interests, a claim that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called "insulting" to the thousands of Canadians who had "fought and died" alongside American GIs from World War II to Afghanistan. The dispute all but guarantees that Trump will get a frosty reception at the G-7 summit in Canada this week, which will be attended by leaders from many of the nations hit with tariffs.

What the editorials said

This trade war will put Trump's "solid economic record" at risk, said *The Wall Street Journal*. American firms that rely on complex cross-border supply chains will have to swallow the tariff costs, and so they'll likely hire fewer workers and pay lower wages. As for Trump's claim that the duties are vital for national security, that's nonsense. Canadian steel and aluminum are integral to U.S. national defense. His duties will make our planes and tanks more expensive, giving "Russia an advantage in international arms sales. Brilliant."

The tariffs were "met with cheers in the industrial Midwest," said the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. But those same states are full of

farmers who will bear the brunt of the retaliation. Mexico, the second-largest export market for U.S. pork, slapped a 20 percent duty on U.S. pork, which could mean U.S. farmers will lose business to other, cheaper foreign producers. It's not just farmers who will feel the hurt. One study suggests a trade war could cost the average U.S. family \$210 a year, "wiping out most benefits of the tax bill passed last December." The GOP could end up paying for that pain in the midterms.

What the columnists said

"What's the modern case for tariffs?" asked James Fallows in *The Atlantic.com*. They're a useful tool when you want to coerce another country into changing its behavior. Yet Canada, Mexico, and the EU "aren't doing anything about steel or aluminum that the U.S. could plausibly call wrong or unfair." Sure, they sell a lot of metal here, but that's no more unfair than the U.S. selling a lot of soybeans to Japan or airliners to China. If the goal is to somehow reduce trade deficits, these tariffs will be "laughably ineffective."

There's one consequence we can be sure of, said Bonnie Glaser in *The New York Times*: The tariffs will make it harder to counter China. Trump is playing into Beijing's portrayal of the U.S. as a "unilateral disrupter" and undermining the free-trade system the U.S. has led since the end of World War II. As an ambitious, rising China promotes its model of authoritarian, state-run capitalism around the world, the U.S. can fight back only "through coordination with allies"—the very allies Trump is alienating.

It's not enough for lawmakers to criticize Trump—they need to "take back control of trade policy," said Clive Crook in *Bloomberg.com*. The Constitution vests Congress with the power to regulate international commerce, and Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) introduced a bill this week to constrain the president's tariff powers. Yet few Republicans and Democrats have so far voiced support for the legislation. If lawmakers do nothing as the trade war escalates, destroying thousands of American jobs in the process, it would be "Congress' most consequential dereliction of duty so far."

It wasn't all bad

■ When Miranda Craig passed out while doing the dishes at her Texas home, her 3-year-old daughter Dorothy knew exactly what to do: call 911 on her mom's cellphone. As Dorothy's 5-month-old brother cried in the background, the toddler told the dispatcher her name and that her mom, who suffers from narcolepsy, was "on the ground." Sheriff's deputies tracked the cellphone and found the family by going door-to-door. Miranda taught Dorothy to call 911 when her daughter was very little. "She's done it for me twice now," she says. "She's my little hero."

■ A British cat is being hailed as the world's oldest feline after celebrating its 30th birthday. Michele Heritage adopted the orange-and-white cat, named Rubble, as a kitten in 1988, and the two have been inseparable ever since. Heritage credits the kitty's incredible longevity to the fact that she pampers and dotes on the animal. Despite Rubble's impressive health, Heritage is keen to keep him out of the spotlight. "He has plenty of life left in him yet, but I don't think we will go down the Guinness World Record route," she says, explaining that her "grumpy" pet wouldn't "like lots of people coming to see him."



Heritage with Rubble

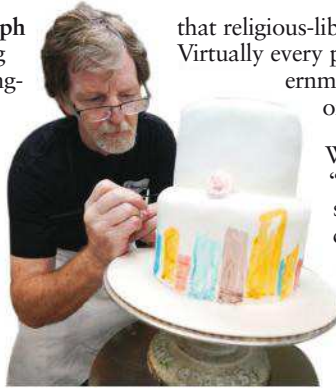
■ For one couple in need, the Boise Black Knights were real knights in shining armor. The Idaho youth football team was being driven home from a championship win when the squad witnessed a rollover crash that left a husband and wife trapped inside their flipped-over SUV on the side of the road. Before ambulances arrived, the mostly 13- and 14-year-old players sprang into action, using their collective strength to overturn the car and pull Alan and Margaret Hardman, both 65, to safety. "I don't know how we would have done it without them," says Alan, who is recovering at home with Margaret. "They didn't even hesitate."

AP (2), SWNS

Gay wedding cake: What the Supreme Court's ruling means

If this decision were a wedding cake, said Mark Joseph Stern in *Slate.com*, it would leave “everyone wanting more.” This week the Supreme Court released its long-awaited ruling in the case of *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. Rather than tackle the central issue, though—whether a claim of “religious liberty” entitled a Christian baker to refuse to bake a cake for a same-sex wedding—the court effectively punted. In a surprisingly lopsided 7-2 decision, the justices ruled for the baker, Jack Phillips, but on the narrow grounds that members of the Civil Rights Commission had verbally disparaged Phillips’ religious beliefs when they said that “religion has been used to justify all kinds of discrimination throughout history, including slavery.” These hostile comments, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority, violated the Constitution’s guarantee that “laws be applied in a manner that is neutral toward religion.” The LGBT community and its allies should still be relieved, said Cristian Farias in *NYPMag.com*. The religious right was seeking “a blanket shield to discriminate.” Kennedy, instead, explicitly reaffirmed “the rights and dignity of gay persons” and wrote that as “a general rule,” businesses may not deny service to gays by claiming a “religious objection.” By handing a partial victory to each side, Kennedy managed “to have his cake and eat it.”

This ruling wasn’t “nearly as narrow as legal progressives would have you believe,” said *NationalReview.com* in an editorial. It’s true the court ducked the question of whether government can force citizens to violate their religious beliefs—that issue is sure to be addressed in cases already working their way through the legal system—but this ruling was still “broad enough to matter.” The Colorado Civil Rights Commission is hardly alone in insisting



Phillips: A partial victory

that religious-liberty claims are “despicable” pretexts for bigotry. Virtually every progressive shares that belief. State and local governments now stand warned that hostility toward people of faith will “carry a cost.”

We may have “lost a battle” in this case, but we “won the war,” said lawyer David Cole, who represented the gay couple, in *WashingtonPost.com*. My clients, Charlie Craig and David Mullins, simply asked for the same decorative, edible cake that Phillips would have made for a straight couple, not a cake adorned with slogans “expressing” pro-gay or anti-Christian sentiments. Kennedy “could not have been more clear” that neither religion nor free speech justifies denying common goods and services to people based on their sexual orientation. If Craig and Mullins were to walk into Masterpiece Cakeshop tomorrow, in other words, and request a cake to celebrate their wedding anniversary, Phillips now knows he has “no First Amendment right to turn them away.”

For that reason, “the fight is far from over,” said Todd Starnes in *FoxNews.com*. Liberals won’t rest until, as Justice Clarence Thomas put it in his concurring opinion, they “stamp out every vestige of dissent” on the secular redefinition of marriage. Christian conservatives won’t be deterred either, said Paul Waldman in *WashingtonPost.com*. They’re waging a fierce legal campaign to get a special status enjoyed by no other group and “exempt themselves from laws they find disagreeable.” Given the “nakedly tribal” support of the current occupant of the White House, I wouldn’t bet against them. This week’s ruling showed there are four solid votes on the court for letting Christians discriminate against gays in the name of religious freedom. “All they need is one more.”

Only in America

■ Eighth-grade students graduating from St. Cornelius Catholic School in Pennsylvania will each receive a free bulletproof shield for their backpacks. The rectangular plates are being donated by Unequal Technologies, a sportswear company, and will help protect students as they continue their educational journey into high school. “It’s sad the times have called for such a product to be invented,” said Unequal CEO Robert Vito.

■ Oregon has halted processing new applications for legal marijuana businesses amid signs the industry is growing too quickly. The state now has a glut of 1 million pounds of weed—or a quarter pound for every man, woman, and child. State economists warned that Oregon now has few job applicants who can pass a drug test, indicating “a broader increase in drug usage.”

Good week for:

Preparation, after fashion brand Louis Vuitton hired a shaman to ensure that no rain would fall during last week’s outdoor fashion show in France. (No rain fell.) The unidentified holy man from Brazil reportedly only travels by private jet and commands a six-figure fee for every act of weather control.

Gingers, after emojis representing red-haired people were finally added to the official Unicode alphabet of emojis, thanks to lobbying from Scotland, where 13 percent of the population is red-haired.

Progress, after the Miss America Organization scrapped the notorious swimsuit portion of the contest. “We are not going to judge you on your outward appearance,” said new chairwoman Gretchen Carlson, a former Miss America and onetime Fox News host.

Bad week for:

Ritual displays of patriotism, after President Trump appeared not to know the words to “God Bless America” at his hastily organized patriotic rally on the White House lawn. After singing the initial few words, Trump fell silent, bobbing his head. He resumed singing only when the words were “God Bless America.”

The Deep State, after a dancing FBI agent did a backflip in a Denver bar, dropped his gun, and accidentally discharged it when he picked it up, shooting another patron in the leg.

Citing Scripture, after a Florida woman arrested for DUI demanded police release her on the grounds that “Jesus drank wine and so did I.” Nicole Mintner, 45, later confessed to having also taken Xanax, an anti-anxiety medication not mentioned in the Bible.

Boring but important

McConnell cancels Senate recess

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has canceled all but one week of the Senate’s traditional four-week August recess, in part to keep vulnerable Democrats from campaigning in their home states before the midterms. McConnell blamed the cancellation on “historic obstruction” by the Democrats, saying the Senate needs more time to work through a backlog of judicial and executive branch appointments. McConnell said he also hopes to make progress negotiating several spending bills. Senate Republicans and the White House both pushed McConnell for the cancellation, with 10 Democrats up for re-election in states that Trump won. McConnell did not cancel the Senate’s recess in 2016, when multiple Republicans were facing difficult re-election campaigns.

California

Key primaries: Democrats made headway in their quest to retake the House of Representatives this week by claiming bal-



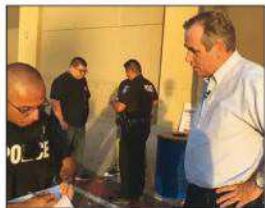
At the polls

lot spots in nearly all of California's 53 congressional districts. Although Democrats dominate the state, party leaders feared that this year's crowded primaries would

backfire. In California's unconventional "jungle primary" system, the top two vote getters advance to the general election regardless of their party. Some speculated that the high number of Democratic candidates would split the vote against less numerous Republicans, shutting Democrats out of key House races. But Democrats managed to snag general-election ballot slots in all seven GOP-held districts won by Hillary Clinton in 2016—seats they are targeting in this year's midterms. Democrats need to pick up 23 seats nationwide to win control of the House. Republicans likewise avoided being shut out of the governor's race, with John Cox advancing to face Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Brownsville, Texas

Shelter showdown: Video of immigration officials denying a U.S. senator entry to a Brownsville facility where migrant children are being held went viral on social media this week.



Merkley being denied entry

Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon was blocked from entering a former Walmart with blacked-out windows now serving as a shelter for children who have been separated at the border from their parents. "The attorney general's team and the Office of Refugee Resettlement don't want anyone to know about what's going on behind these doors," Merkley told a responding police officer. A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the shelters, accused Merkley of grandstanding. The number of illegal border crossings was higher than usual in May, despite the Justice Department's new "zero tolerance" policy.

Washington, D.C.

Another EPA scandal: Scott Pruitt, the embattled EPA administrator, faced a new ethical firestorm this week amid reports that he directed a staff member to help his wife try to secure a Chick-fil-A franchise. Emails show that Pruitt directed an aide to reach out to Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy to set up a meeting with his wife, Marlyn Pruitt, about becoming a franchisee. The meeting never happened, but the administrator ultimately spoke with members of Chick-fil-A's legal department, and a Chick-fil-A spokesperson confirmed that Marlyn had started, but never finished, a franchise application. Securing a Chick-fil-A franchise is a highly competitive process; the company receives about 40,000 "expressions of interest" every year, with only about 100 people selected. Pruitt also reportedly asked an aide to call the Trump International Hotel in Washington about securing a used mattress for him.



Richmond, Va.

Obamacare win: Virginia's Republican-controlled legislature voted to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act last week. Roughly 400,000 low-income Virginians will gain access to the federal public health insurance program next year. The Affordable Care Act gave states the option to expand Medicaid starting in 2014, but GOP lawmakers in Virginia successfully blocked it for years. The Republican resistance began to crumble after Democrats made sweeping gains in last year's state elections, with now-Gov. Ralph Northam campaigning heavily on health-care issues. To win Republican votes, Democrats in the statehouse agreed to require adults without disabilities to work or volunteer in order to receive benefits. Ultimately, enough Republicans voted for the expansion that it could have passed without any of the new Democrats who won seats in the state legislature last year. Virginia is the 33rd state to expand Medicaid under Obamacare.

Washington, D.C.

Manafort troubles:

Prosecutors working for special counsel Robert Mueller accused former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort this week of witness tampering in his federal tax and money-laundering case. Manafort allegedly tried to contact two witnesses by phone, through an intermediary, and through encrypted messages on WhatsApp, violating the terms of his release. Manafort is under house arrest on a \$10 million bond. Prosecutors have now asked a federal judge to send him to jail while he awaits trial, which could increase pressure on him to cooperate with the special counsel's investigation. The witnesses worked for a public relations firm involved in Manafort's lobbying efforts on behalf of a pro-Russia party in Ukraine. They provided texts to the FBI showing that Manafort urged them to tell investigators that their lobbying work was limited to the European Union, even though they worked with Manafort in the U.S. Manafort has been charged with failing to disclose his foreign lobbying in the U.S., as well as bank fraud and other financial crimes.



Manafort: Interfering?

Parkland, Fla.

Parkland survivor targeted:

A police SWAT team descended on the home of Parkland survivor and prominent gun-control activist David Hogg this week after a hoax 911 call reported that someone was in the house with a weapon. Neither Hogg nor any of his family was home at the time; the 18-year-old was in Washington, D.C., with his mother accepting a human rights award. The call was an example of "swatting," in which prank callers attempt to get armed officers to raid a target's home, with potentially fatal results. Police shot and killed an unarmed 28-year-old man in Wichita in December after they were called to his home during a swatting incident. Hogg is anathema in certain gun rights circles for his pugnacious activism in response to the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where he graduated this week. Hogg and other student activists with the March for Our Lives movement are planning a 20-state summer bus tour to campaign for gun control laws and to register young people to vote.



Hogg: 'Swatted'



Renata and Rob Ford

Toronto

Ford sued: The widow of crack-smoking Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is suing former brother-in-law Doug Ford—the Progressive Conservative Party leader running to be Ontario's next premier—for millions of dollars in lost income. Renata Ford alleges that Doug and his brother Randy negligently managed the family's label-making firm, Deco Toronto, while

arranging “extravagant” salaries and bonuses for themselves, depriving her two children of their inheritance. The case was filed just days before the Ontario election; Doug has pledged that, if elected, he'll run the province “like a business.” He called the allegations “completely false,” and his mother, Diane, released a statement referencing Renata's history of drug addiction.

Madrid

Prime minister booted: With a slew of corruption scandals circling his center-right People's Party, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy was forced out of office last week by a no-confidence vote in the parliament. Socialist party leader Pedro Sánchez has replaced Rajoy as prime minister. Opposition parties united to demand the vote after 29 people linked to the People's Party were convicted last month of crimes including influence peddling and falsifying accounts, and were sentenced to a total of 351 years in prison. But Sánchez may not last long as prime minister, because the Socialists have only 84 of the 350 seats in the lower house. The Popular Party has 134 seats, as well as a majority in the upper house, and has threatened to block a vote on the budget.

San Miguel los Lotes, Guatemala

Volcanic eruption: At least 75 people were killed and entire towns left covered in ash after Guatemala's Fuego Volcano suddenly erupted this week. Houses in the village of San Miguel los Lotes were turned to rubble by the force of the blast. “My mother's house was buried with my entire family inside,” one resident told CNN. “My three sons, two daughters, and my grandson. My mother, my sisters, my nieces and nephews.” Days after the eruption, the ground was so hot that it burned through firefighters' boots, and rescue workers couldn't breathe in the smoky, ashy air. Unlike the slow-moving Kilauea lava eruption in Hawaii, Fuego unleashed a deadly pyroclastic flow—a mix of ash, rock, and volcanic gases that races down a volcano's slopes at hundreds of miles per hour, far too fast for people to escape.



In the devastation zone

Masaya, Nicaragua

Killing protesters: Nicaraguan police and paramilitaries killed at least five protesters in the city of Masaya this week, as demonstrators across the country continued to rally against the rule of President Daniel Ortega. Human rights activists said one of the dead, 23-year-old teacher Carlos Lopez, was killed by a bullet in the torso, indicating “he was executed, no doubt, by snipers.” At least 110 people have been killed and hundreds arrested since protests began in mid-April. Many Nicaraguans are now afraid to leave their homes. State-run hospitals have directed doctors not to treat wounded protesters and have fired medics who defied the order. “We are in a real crisis situation,” said Vilma Núñez, president of the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights. Ortega “has turned it into a massacre.”



Burying a demonstrator

Berlin

Undiplomatic ambassador: The German government has asked U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell to explain himself after he told alt-right U.S. news site *Breitbart.com* that he intended “to empower other conservatives throughout Europe.” Some politicians called for Grenell to be expelled. “If a German ambassador were to say in Washington that he is there to boost the Democrats, he would have been kicked out immediately,” said Martin Schulz, former head of the center-left Social Democrats. Grenell also upset Germans by inviting the new far-right Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz—an outspoken critic of Germany's refugee policy—to lunch at the embassy, saying he was a “big fan.”



Grenell



Ljubljana, Slovenia

Anti-immigrant party wins: A nationalist party's election victory has made Melania Trump's homeland the latest European country to surge rightward. The Slovenian Democratic Party won with 25 percent of the vote in this week's election—twice as large a share as any other party in a fragmented field of 25 parties—after campaigning on a promise to crack down on illegal immigration and put “Slovenians first.” Party leader Janez Jansa, who has been prime minister twice since 2004 but has recently moved significantly to the right, will get first crack at forming a coalition government. He says it will be difficult to muster a majority, since most other parties have already ruled out cooperating with him.



Jansa: 'Slovenians first'

Tehran

Nuclear boost: Iran's supreme leader announced this week that he has ordered preparations to increase the country's uranium enrichment capacity, if the international nuclear pact with Tehran collapses. For now, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said, Iran will keep its enrichment within the limits and subject to the inspections of the 2015 deal, from which the U.S. unilaterally withdrew last month. But Khamenei said Iran will prepare for a future outside the pact if European countries fail to prevent new U.S. sanctions on European firms that do business with Iran, which will hurt the country's economy. "The Iranian nation will not tolerate being under both sanctions and nuclear restrictions," Khamenei said. France, Germany, and the U.K. have submitted a joint request to the U.S. for a sanctions exemption for EU companies.



Khamenei

Beijing

South China Sea standoff: U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis aggressively pushed back against Beijing's military buildup in the South China Sea last week, promising "much larger consequences" in the future if China continues to install weapons systems on disputed islands there. China is trying to assert its territorial claims in the area by deploying military assets to man-made and natural islands in the sea: In recent weeks, it has sent anti-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles, and electronic jammers to the Spratly Islands and nuclear-capable bombers to Woody Island. Citing that militarization, the U.S. recently sent warships within 12 miles of some of the islands, and uninvited China from a large biannual multinational Pacific Rim military exercise in which China had previously participated. This week, the U.S. flew nuclear-capable B-52 bombers in the area. "Make no mistake: America is in the Indo-Pacific to stay," said Mattis. "This is our priority theater."



A U.S. aircraft carrier on patrol

Kabul

Attack on imams: An ISIS suicide bomber struck a gathering of 3,000 senior Afghan imams in Kabul this week, shortly after the Muslim clerics had issued a fatwa proscribing suicide bombings as un-Islamic. The jihadist detonated his explosives at one of the exits from the meeting ground, killing 14 people—including seven clerics—and wounding 17 more. The bombing was "an attack against the heirs of the prophet of Islam and the values of Islam," said Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. The clerics had also called on the Taliban to take up Ghani's offer of unconditional peace talks, and declared the 17-year Afghan War illegal under Islamic law, saying it has done nothing but "shed the blood of Muslims."

New Delhi, India

Plastic ban: India has announced that it intends to ban all single-use plastics by 2022. The United Nations praised the plan to end the use of plastic bags, cutlery, straws, and bottles, saying that while some 60 countries have announced curbs on plastics, India's program to halt their use by more than 1.3 billion people is by far the most ambitious. The country generates about 6 million tons of plastic waste every year, much of which is dumped into the ocean and washes onto beaches. Enforcement will be difficult: Ten plastic bans are already in effect in Indian states and cities, yet only two have had significant results. But the government says it is committed. "An unclean environment hurts the poor and vulnerable the most," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



A plan to cut waste

Tunis, Tunisia

Ramadan hunger games: The coach of Tunisia's national soccer team, Nabil Maâloul, admitted this week that he asked the squad's goalkeeper to fake an injury during two recent World Cup warm-up games so his players could break their Ramadan fast during the time-out. Muslims must abstain from food and drink from sunup to sundown during the holy month, even while playing professional sports. During friendly matches against Portugal and Turkey last week, Tunisian goalkeeper Mouez Hassen fell to the ground at precisely sunset, and as he received medical aid, his teammates bolted to the sidelines to scarf down some sustenance. "I was hurt, bro," Hassen tweeted in French, adding laughter emojis.



Hassen: Faking injury

Rome

The lawmaker with no face: One of Italy's newly elected national legislators is a former Mafia informant whose face has not been seen by the public. Forced as a teenager to marry the son of a Cosa Nostra boss, Piera Aiello turned informant in 1991 after witnessing the murder of her husband by two Mafia hit men. She lived under an assumed identity and armed protection for years before writing a best-selling memoir in 2012. This year, the 51-year-old decided to run as a candidate for the anti-establishment Five Star Movement under her own name, but out of fear for her safety she did not show her face while campaigning except to select journalists. Parliament has agreed to issue her an ID with no photo. "I am well aware that, eventually, a journalist could expose me," she said. "I'm just trying to do the right thing."

Why Hopkins runs on rage



Anthony Hopkins feeds off his anger, said Miranda Sawyer in *TheGuardian.com*. The prolific, 80-year-old Welsh actor, who won an Oscar in 1992 for playing the cannibalistic killer Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, inherited an inner fury from his father, a baker who drank hard and had “sudden turns of rage” that were followed by deep depressions.

In Wales, Hopkins said, men are raised to ignore their feelings or drink them away. “There’s nothing soft or touchy-feely about any of us,” he says. “We’re not very good at receiving love or giving it. We don’t understand it.” Hopkins, too, became an alcoholic, though he quit drinking in 1975. He seemed to lose some verve, so his mother told him, “Why don’t you just be the bastard you really are? You’re a monster. Be a monster.” Now he thinks the emotional “abyss” that leads to alcoholism can be a motivational “gift” if channeled properly. “It’s a volcanic anger, and it’s fuel. Rocket fuel. But of course it can rip you to pieces and kill you.” Content with being a “loner” dedicated to his work, he’s estranged from his only child, the singer and actress Abigail Hopkins. “I accepted it years ago. It’s her choice and she must live her life.”

Miller’s education in trolling

Stephen Miller is President Trump’s right-hand troll, said McKay Coppins in *The Atlantic*. The 32-year-old White House aide has delighted in provocation from a young age—what he calls “constructive controversy with the purpose of enlightenment.” He grew up among wealthy liberals in Santa Monica, Calif. In high school, he complained about announcements being read in Spanish over the PA system, and once ran down to join the homestretch of a girls’ track race in order to demonstrate his gender’s superior athleticism. While campaigning for student government, he said in a speech, “Am I the only one who is sick and tired of being told to pick up my trash when we have plenty of janitors who are paid to *do it for us*?” Students booed him off the stage. As an undergrad at Duke, he was no less antagonistic. He organized an “Islamofascism Awareness Week” to educate students about “the holy war being waged against us,” and his column for the campus newspaper railed against feminism and the “War on Christmas.” These provocations were quite deliberate. “I knew that expressing [my views] meekly or apologetically in that kind of environment would be totally ineffective,” Miller says. Maybe, he says, he was just ahead of his time. “You’d have a lot more fun being a campus conservative in a ‘Make America Great Again’ hat.”



Fonda’s late-life awakening

Jane Fonda never imagined acting at 80, said Sophie Heawood in *TheGuardian.com*. She has a role in the ongoing Netflix series *Grace and Frankie* and continues to star in films after six decades in Hollywood. “I feel damn lucky,” Fonda says. “At 65, I never thought I’d have a career. I keep pinching myself.” She admits that face-lifts “bought me an extra 10 years” in acting, though she’s not proud of it. In fact, she suspects women who overdo plastic surgery have a self-loathing that originates in sexual abuse. When she sees the face “of a woman who has made herself into a mask, I always think to myself...I wonder, I wonder.” Fonda herself was sexually abused during a tumultuous childhood; her father, actor Henry Fonda, was largely absent, and her mother committed suicide in a psychiatric hospital. For much of her life, Fonda says, she lived to please men, and only at 62, after her divorce from Ted Turner, did she feel that “I could live inside my own skin.” It was a major awakening. “I feel very sad that so many girls are abused all over the world and that men don’t understand what it does to them,” she says. “It can alter a person.” Fonda is grateful, above all, to witness the justice of #MeToo. “I did not think I would live to see it”

Gossip

■ **Bill Clinton** says he wouldn’t change a thing about his handling of the Monica Lewinsky scandal. In a testy interview on the *Today* show, the former president said he doesn’t feel implicated by the #MeToo movement, which he calls “way overdue.” He said he apologized to “everybody in the world” for his affair, although he never spoke with his former intern directly. The Lewinsky issue is only getting renewed scrutiny, he contends, because people are “frustrated” about “serious allegations against the current occupant of the Oval Office, and his voters don’t seem to care.” Clinton insisted he was right to

fight impeachment and that he paid plenty for his misdeeds. “Nobody says I got out of that for free. I left the White House \$16 million in debt.”

■ **Melania Trump’s** absence from public events is raising eyebrows. This week the first lady attended a closed-door event at the White House honoring Gold Star families, three weeks after she underwent a minor kidney operation and 25 days since she was last seen publicly. Online conspiracy theorists were abuzz after Mrs. Trump skipped a Trump family getaway at Camp David and announced she wouldn’t join the president for upcoming summits abroad. Last week, the first lady told her Twitter followers to “rest assured” she was fine and “working hard on behalf of children & the American people!” The tweet didn’t silence the rumors,

with some noting it sounded a lot like her husband’s Twitter writing style.

■ MSNBC host **Joy Reid** continues to be hounded by her old blog posts. After Reid apologized for “hateful” homophobic comments on her blog from the 2000s, *BuzzFeed.com* unearthed two more incendiary posts. In one, Reid urged readers to watch a documentary that calls the Sept. 11 attacks an inside job. In the other, she posted a photo of Sen. John McCain’s head photoshopped onto the body of the Virginia Tech shooter who killed 32 people in 2007. “There are things I deeply regret and am embarrassed by,” Reid said. MSNBC called the posts “obviously hateful and hurtful” but declined to discipline the host. In April, Reid said hackers had inserted homophobic comments into her old blog, but has dropped that claim.

Rise of the deepfakes

New technology makes it alarmingly easy to make realistic videos of people saying and doing things they've never done.

What is this technology?

It's a sophisticated type of software that makes it possible to superimpose one person's face onto another's body and manipulate voice recordings, creating fake videos that look and sound real. Hollywood studios have long used computer-generated imagery (CGI) to, say, create fleeting appearances of dead actors. But the process used to be prohibitively expensive and laborious. Today, the technology has improved so much that highly realistic visual and audio fakery can be produced by anyone with a powerful home computer.

This has already resulted in a cottage industry of fake celebrity porn. But fears are growing over how else "deepfake" videos could be used—from smearing politicians in elections to inciting major international conflict. Earlier this year, *BuzzFeed.com* created a "public service announcement" warning of the technology's dangers, with a deepfake of former President Barack Obama voiced by the comedian and director Jordan Peele. "We're entering an era," the fake Obama says, "in which our enemies can make it look like anyone is saying anything." To illustrate the point, the fake Obama goes on to call President Trump "a total and complete dips---."

Where did deepfakes originate?

In porn, of course. Last December, an anonymous Reddit user who calls himself "deepfakes" started posting fake but realistic-looking videos of celebrities engaged in explicit sex. By January, the "deepfake" technology had been shared through a free app, FakeApp, which has since been downloaded more than 120,000 times. FakeApp and its imitators sparked an explosion of fake pornography online, with Michelle Obama, Ivanka Trump, and Emma Watson among those most frequently victimized. But it's not all porn. The technology has also been used to create harmless spoof and parody videos—inserting Reddit cult figure Nicolas Cage into films in which he didn't appear, for example.

How do deepfakes work?

The creator gathers a trove of photos or videos of the target—so it helps if it's a famous person—along with the video to be doctored. The video maker then feeds the data into the app, which uses a form of artificial intelligence (AI) known as "deep learning"—hence deepfake—to combine the face in the source images with the chosen video. This process requires a sizable graphics processing unit and a vast amount of memory. It's time-consuming—the Obama/Peele video took 56 hours to make—and the quality is variable. But the technology is improving fast. Tech expert Antonio García Martínez, writing for *Wired*, says



An altered film in which Nicolas Cage (right) replaces Amy Adams



we'll soon be able to superimpose anyone's face onto "anyone else's, creating uncannily authentic videos of just about anything."

How are voices faked?

The principle is the same: You feed lots of recordings of the person you want to fake into an AI program, which chops up sounds and words into discreet bits; software can then rearrange the sounds so the subject can say anything you like. A team of sound engineers recently used deep-learning software to analyze 831 of John F. Kennedy's speeches, and

then created a convincing approximation of the 35th president reading the speech he was due to deliver the day he was assassinated. Researchers at the University of Washington last year synthesized realistic videos of Barack Obama speaking by mapping audio from one speech onto an existing video of him talking.

How much trouble can this cause?

Potentially, a lot. On deepfake forums, there are frequent requests for help in producing face-swap porn videos of ex-girlfriends, classmates, and teachers. In the public sphere, the technology could be even more toxic. Fake videos could show soldiers committing atrocities, or world leaders declaring war on another country—triggering an actual military response. Deepfakes could be used to damage the reputation of a politician, or a political party, or an entire country. And if fake videos become commonplace, people may start assuming real videos are fake, too. That skepticism could be corrosive. "It'll only take a couple of big hoaxes," says Justin Hendrix, executive director of NYC Media Lab, "to really convince the public that nothing's real."

How artificial intelligence works

At the core of the deepfakes code is a "deep neural network"—a computing system vaguely modeled on the biological neural networks that make up human brains. Such systems "learn," or progressively improve their performance, by taking in and analyzing vast amounts of data, acquainting themselves with the information via trial and error, and adjusting to feedback about what's wrong and right. Like a brain, AI networks reprogram themselves by reacting to patterns in incoming data, rather than relying on fixed rules. FakeApp uses a suite of neural networking tools that were developed by Google's AI division and released to the public in 2015. The software teaches itself to perform image-recognition tasks through trial and error. First, FakeApp trains itself, using "training data" in the form of photos and videos. Then it stitches the face onto another head in a video clip, accurately preserving the facial expression in the original video. These technologies have been developed by online communities, where developers are often happy to share techniques—further accelerating the pace of progress.

Can deepfakes be stopped?

To reduce the potential dangers of deepfakes, videos can be equipped with a unique digital key that proves their origin, or with metadata showing where and when they were captured. Artificial intelligence can be trained to recognize deepfakes and remove them from websites. Deepfakes have already been banned from many porn sites, as well as from Twitter. Ultimately, though, the genie is out of the bottle. FakeApp's creator, "deepfakeapp," another Reddit user, told *ViceNews.com* he wanted to give "everyday people" the opportunity to use technology previously limited to "big-budget SFX companies." Most tech experts say people will simply have to adapt to this new normal, by recalibrating their trust in the once unimpeachable medium of video. Soon, we won't be able to trust our own eyes.

Failing to bow to 'their' president

Marcus Hayes
Philly.com

"In the end, Donald Trump could not stand the sight of another tiny crowd," said Marcus Hayes. Not after the embarrassing inauguration crowd photos, or the snubs of other players who've declined to show up for championship ceremonies at Trump's White House. So this week, the president disinvented the entire Philadelphia Eagles team from a White House celebration of their Super Bowl victory, even though no Eagle knelt during the national anthem this year. Why? Many of the players were offended by Trump's attacks on other NFL players and their protests of police mistreatment of blacks, and said they would boycott the ceremony. Some planned to go, but Trump "couldn't stand to have so few show him fealty." Like a king, he wanted *every* player to bow to his dictates, revealing that the ceremony was not really about the Eagles. "It was meant to celebrate him." Outraged by the players' impudence, Trump proclaimed: "They disagree with *their* president because he insists that they proudly stand for the national anthem." Wow. "Their" president. Trump's language tells you all you need to know. This president believes he's every American's boss, and if some people dare to disagree, they should be excluded and silenced.

Obama, too good for America

Matthew Continetti
FreeBeacon.com

America has "let Barack Obama down," said Matthew Continetti. In a new memoir, former White House aide Ben Rhodes describes how President Obama cycled between bouts of anger, self-doubt, and resignation after Donald Trump's shocking election victory. Rhodes recalls Obama asking aloud, "What if we were wrong?" and adding, "Maybe people just want to fall back into their tribe." His smug condescension toward the tribes of flyover country, of course, helped fuel the conservative populism that Trump rode to the White House. Obama *was* wrong about a lot of other things too, like ramming an unpopular health-care bill through Congress, ceding Syria to Russia, and pushing Joe Biden out of the way so Hillary Clinton could run to succeed him. Rhodes quotes Obama as musing, "Sometimes I wonder whether I was 10 or 20 years too early." Too early for what? "Fundamentally transforming America?" Yes, perhaps he was too early for that, given that half the country didn't agree with him. Poor Obama. "A paradigmatic liberal," he was certain that progress toward his preferred policies was inevitable and irreversible. At least he can take comfort in telling himself that he was simply "too enlightened, sophisticated, mature for his time."

Trump's shortsighted coal plan

Eric Levitz
NYMag.com

President Trump's "bonkers" strategy for reviving the coal industry could set a precedent Republicans may come to regret, said Eric Levitz. Trump wants his Energy Department to force utility companies to buy electric power from struggling coal and nuclear plants at uncompetitive rates, on the grounds that bailing out the declining coal industry serves a "national-security interest." That, of course, is "patently absurd." Nearly every utility company and energy expert agrees that our energy grid—which largely depends on domestic oil, natural gas, hydro, and other U.S. sources—is perfectly stable as is. Moreover, Trump's insistence that plants burn dirty, carbon-rich coal "puts the profits of coal magnates above the survival of the planet," which is heating up fast. If this president's imperial assertion of executive power "to prop up coal plants" becomes a precedent, "it's hard to see why a future one couldn't use it to shut them down." Imagine what Elizabeth Warren, for example, could do with the authority Trump is audaciously claiming over private companies, trade rules, and tariffs. "If conservatives recoil at the thought of a future Democratic president claiming extraordinary powers to combat climate change, they should implore the current Republican to stop inventing new, extraordinary justifications for exacerbating it."

Viewpoint

"No doubt there were millions of Trump voters who backed him enthusiastically as a result of his irresponsible provocations. For millions more Trump supporters, though, the president earned their vote despite, not because of, his boorishness. That weak bond is only likely to be reinforced by liberal condescension. No matter how branded they may be in the eyes of liberal opinion makers, Donald Trump's voters cannot be expelled from American political life."

Noah Rothman in *CommentaryMagazine.com*

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

■ A Canadian town is being terrorized by a gang of 150 wild peacocks. The territorial birds are attacking parked cars in the Vancouver suburb of Surrey, thinking their reflections in shiny bodywork are rival fowl. The pecking and scratching can go on for hours, says resident Ryan Cragg. "They'll get the front panel, the side panel, the rear panel, and then work around to the other side." During mating season, the peacocks roost on rooftops and keep locals awake with their shrieks. "It's like living with a colicky baby," says Cragg.

■ An expert on the royal family with a posh English accent who provided TV analysis during the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle has been outed as an Italian-American from upstate New York. Born Tommy Muscatello, the man now known as Thomas J.



Mace-Archer-Mills Esq. says he perfected his plummy accent while starring in a high school production of *Oliver!* A lifelong Anglophile who moved to the U.K. in 2012, the 38-year-old founder of the British Monarchist Society says he isn't a fake but rather "identifies" as British. "I found where I'm supposed to be and who I am supposed to be," he says.

■ A Dutch airliner had to make an emergency landing after a passenger's body odor caused other flyers to vomit and faint. Shortly after takeoff from Amsterdam, passengers aboard the Transavia flight to the Spanish island of Gran Canaria began to gag at the man's stench. "It was like he hadn't washed himself for several weeks," said one passenger. The plane diverted to Portugal so the man could be removed. "He smelled quite a bit," an airline spokesman confirmed.

Home Security. Done Right.

Meet the all new SimpliSafe.

It's smaller. Faster. Stronger than ever.

Engineered with a single focus: to protect.

More than easy to use. It's downright delightful.

With sensors so small they're practically invisible.

Designed to disappear into your home

And blanket it with protection.

All at prices that are fair and honest.

This is SimpliSafe.

Home Security. Done Right.



SimpliSafe™

Right now get free shipping at
[SimpliSafe.com/week](https://www.simplisafe.com/week)

SWITZERLAND

Neutrality is not the highest good

Linus Schöpfer
Tages-Anzeiger

Does Swiss neutrality mean that our government can never take a position on a foreign conflict? asked Linus Schöpfer. That's what Swiss People's Party lawmaker Roger Köppel argued last week when he opposed—in vain—the historic parliamentary declaration denouncing war crimes in Syria. Neutrality, he said, is our “indispensable security guarantee” and can be upheld only by our “deliberate silence” on world affairs. But his is a “dangerous miscalculation.” Tyrants and imperialists are not interested in neutrality: The British subjugated half of Africa even though the continent had never meddled in U.K. affairs; the Nazis

overran Belgium despite its explicit neutrality. Look at the Dutch, the Danes. History is littered with peoples who tried to stay out of wars but were dragged into them anyway. Switzerland was spared the first two world wars not because we were neutral, but “because we were lucky.” Since then we've been protected by the twin umbrellas of NATO, which U.S. President Donald Trump is trying to destroy, and the European Union, which is in crisis. Switzerland may soon have to “join forces with other democracies” against the rising autocrats. What good is it to be safe and neutral if we end up “castrated and blinded”?

UNITED KINGDOM

Drooling over men isn't innocent

Anoosh Chakelian
NewStatesman.com

Why, in this #MeToo era, is it OK for women to ogle actors' hot bods? asked Anoosh Chakelian. Not one but five British newspapers last week ran the same front-page photo of a bare-chested Aidan Turner—star of hit BBC period drama *Poldark*—sloshing ashore on a beach, flaunting his perfect arms and abs. When I saw this spread of beefcake, my immediate thought was “This is progress!” For so long, the British media has used scantily clad women to sell papers, and here we have the venerable *Daily Telegraph* serving up some studmuffin. There is, to be sure, a “feminist argument in favor of slaving over Turner's torso”: Men have not

been historically judged by, or held back because of, their perceived sexual attractiveness. Surely we won't now be so humorless, some pundits said, as to deny women readers their little treat. But that's a dangerous argument. Just think how often male tabloid editors and male readers have explained away *The Sun's* “Page Three” photos of topless models as simply a bit of fun “in an attempt to make feminists look joyless and patronizing.” Studies of masculinity tell us that patriarchy and enforced gender norms are damaging to men's psyches as well as to women's. “Perhaps it's better for everyone” if we don't treat each other as objects.

Italy: On a collision course with Europe

After three months of postelection chaos, an “exhausted” Italy is “simply relieved to have a government” at last, said Mario Calabresi in *La Repubblica* (Italy). But the unwieldy coalition forged last week by the far-right League, which together with allied right-leaning parties won 37 percent of the vote in the March election, and the pro-welfare, anti-establishment Five Star Movement, which took 33 percent, won't bring us stability. Neither party wanted the other to lead, so the prime minister is now the neutral Giuseppe Conte, 53, a law professor with no political experience. How will they govern together? A year ago, remember, Five Star leaders called the League “cryptofascist” and said the two parties were “genetically and culturally opposite.” And the coalition agreement the two produced shows exactly that: It promises both the tax cuts the League demands and the universal basic income that Five Star campaigned on, all of which would cost this indebted nation well over \$100 billion a year. “Fasten your seatbelts,” because this government's “mixture of inexperience, improvisation, and arrogance” will lead us on a wild and possibly dangerous ride.

This divided government is a perfect representation of a divided nation, said Pierre-Cyrille Hautcoeur in *Le Monde* (France). Italy's rich industrial North, which voted for the League, has a booming economy and resents the waves of unskilled African migrants who have flowed to Italy in recent years. The more rural South, which voted for Five Star, has a “poorer, poorly educated, and jobless society,” and its people blame their ills on



League leader Salvini: A promise to expel migrants

the introduction of the euro in 1999. The split between the two Italies has existed since Italian unification in the late 19th century, but has worsened in the past decade.

This instability threatens the entire European Union, said Ulrich Ladurner in *Die Zeit* (Germany). If one room in a shared apartment goes up in flames, “surely all the other roommates should shout ‘FIRE!’” Yet criticizing Italy's political insanity only makes Italians resent the EU even more. In fact, the EU “is an excellent scapegoat” for

Italy's new government, said Italian journalist Roberto Saviano in *The Guardian* (U.K.). If Conte can't deliver the League's flat tax or Five Star's basic income, EU budget rules will be blamed. Italians voted in this populist government out of anger at their national leaders' ineptitude. The populists can now channel that rage at an external target.

At least this new coalition is taking action on the immigration crisis, said Anna Sampino in *Giornale di Sicilia* (Italy). As soon as he was sworn in as interior minister, League leader Matteo Salvini traveled to Sicily, a major landing area for African and other migrants, 120,000 of whom crossed the Mediterranean to Italy last year. Salvini declared that he would build on the previous government's “policies of control, removal, and expulsion,” and he demanded that the EU share the burden. “Italy,” he said, “cannot be transformed into a refugee camp on behalf of Europe.”

How they see us: Trump's tariffs anger U.S. allies

The U.S. “has just declared war,” said **Martin Kettle** in *The Guardian* (U.K.). President Donald Trump’s decision to slap a 25 percent tariff on all steel imported from Canada, Mexico, and the European Union, and a 10 percent duty on imported aluminum, is an act of aggression against America’s closest allies. Free trade has bound the nations of the West together for more than half a century, but this attack marks “a turning point. It declares us America’s enemies.” The tariffs are “so hurtful as to be incomprehensible,” said **The Globe and Mail** (Canada) in an editorial. To evade World Trade Organization strictures, the U.S. president invoked national security as the reason for his “erratic and irresponsible decision.” As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said while announcing retaliatory duties on U.S. goods ranging from ballpoint pens to toilet paper to maple syrup, that suggestion is an affront “to the thousands of Canadians who have fought and died alongside American comrades-in-arms.” Trudeau also pointed out that the U.S. has a \$2 billion surplus in steel trade with Canada, but since Trump is entirely “immune to reason,” invoking facts is useless.

Trump cares about one thing only: enriching his family, said **Scott Gilmore** in *Macleans* (Canada). Countries get what they want from him through bribery—China granted his daughter Ivanka trademarks, and a Qatar-linked company is investing in son-in-law Jared Kushner’s real estate. The smart retaliation, then, would be to target Trump’s family businesses. Canada could levy a



Trudeau: Ready to retaliate against the new duties

nearly 13 percent to \$568 billion last year. If that trend continues, and the U.S. continues to buy more than it sells to the world, “the American economy will simply die.” Unlike past presidents, Trump is determined “to selfishly work in the interests of the national economy” and not that of “‘globalist’ financial circles.” Other countries will have to do the same. The age of globalization is over.

American international leadership is dead, said **Jean-Marc Vittori** in *Les Echos* (France), but free trade lives. The huge trade treaty known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership is steaming ahead despite Trump’s pullout, and the world’s top economies are quietly discussing creating new trade mechanisms for the post-U.S. era. China’s new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has 64 member countries, a third of them European—and unlike the U.S. with the World Bank, China doesn’t have a veto. The world won’t let “the seeds of discord planted by the U.S. president germinate and grow.

special tax on Trump properties, the EU could revoke visas for Trump Organization employees, and the U.K. could close his golf courses. It sounds like satire—but then so does the idea of a U.S. president “dismantling the entire liberal international order” because he is “focused on promoting his own interests, at the expense of American allies, and at the expense of Americans themselves.”

Trump is just facing reality, said **Dmitri Lekukh** in *RIA Novosti* (Russia). The U.S. trade deficit grew

RUSSIA

Babchenko’s gift to Kremlin propaganda

Pavel Kanygin
Novaya Gazeta

Arkady Babchenko may be the Kremlin’s most outspoken foe, said Pavel Kanygin, but with his faked assassination he has handed them a weapon that can slay Russian journalism. The Russian journalist, who had fled to Ukraine after receiving Kremlin-linked death threats, collaborated with the Ukrainian Secret Service to stage his own “murder” at his Kiev apartment last week. Then not 24 hours after he was supposedly identified at the morgue, Babchenko emerged alive at a press conference to tell us it was a sting to expose a Russian plot. The friends who had wept and mourned, the reporters who’d written anguished obituaries,

the international politicians who’d denounced Russia—all were at first relieved and happy, then outraged at the deception. The Kremlin, of course, which had angrily denied any involvement just as it denies all the murders and crimes legitimately attributed to it, “is rejoicing.” It can now blame any crime on “fake news.” Celebrating with it are “conspiracy theorists across the world, who now have a brilliant excuse to strengthen their distrust of the media.” Reporters in Kiev, of course, did try their hardest to confirm the killing and were still following leads when the hoax was revealed. Babchenko did not die on May 30—“journalism did.”

SOUTH AFRICA

Bringing rugby racism into the open

Editorial
Mail & Guardian

More than 25 years after the end of apartheid, South African rugby is still struggling with racism, said the *Mail & Guardian*. The national team, the Springboks, was banned from the sport’s first two World Cups, in 1987 and 1991, because of an international sports boycott of apartheid South Africa. The end of white minority rule allowed the team to play at the 1995 World Cup. Then-President Nelson Mandela cheered the nearly all-white team, but his blessing didn’t change rugby culture. Coach Andre Markgraaff had to resign two years later after calling new black rugby officials “f---ing kaffirs,” the N-word of South Africa.

Fast-forward to today, and while the Springboks still have a mostly white lineup, they do have their first black captain. But not all is well in the game. One of South African rugby’s first black stars, Ashwin Willemsse, who is now a sportscaster, walked off a TV set during a live postgame analysis last week, saying his two white co-anchors—former Bok coach Nick Mallett and former player Naas Botha—had “undermined” him on air for too long. The episode has exposed the resentment black players and fans feel at the sport’s culture of barely concealed prejudice. How long will rugby remain “at the center of a white nationalist identity”?

Noted

■ Half the world's population, about 3.6 billion people, now use the internet, according to the annual Internet Trends report.

Axios.com

■ Republicans have aired more than 14,000 campaign ads that include "Trump-style" immigration messaging about "the wall" and "sanctuary cities." Democrats have run more than 26,000 ads promising a better health-care system.

USA Today



■ President Trump has spent more of the taxpayers' money—at least \$17 million—for his week-end trips to Mar-a-Lago than the \$16.7 million the Mueller investigation has cost thus far.

The Washington Post

■ Starting in 2019, Vermont will begin offering \$10,000 grants to workers who want to move to the state while still working remotely for companies based elsewhere.

Oz.com

■ China is on track to surpass the U.S. in spending on scientific research by the end of this year. The U.S. spends \$500 billion annually on research, but China has been increasing its spending by an average of 18 percent a year, and is now luring foreign scientists and retaining Chinese who used to emigrate to the U.S.

The Washington Post

North Korea talks: What to expect

The romance is back on, said **David Nakamura** in *The Washington Post*. A beaming President Trump announced last week that the June 12 summit in Singapore with Kim Jong Un is a go, just nine days after he abruptly called the meeting off. All it took to earn his forgiveness was a letter from Kim, hand-delivered in a "cartoonishly oversize envelope" by envoy Kim Yong Chol, the former head of North Korea's spy agency. Trump and the envoy schmoozed in the Oval Office for 90 minutes, the first time a North Korean official has set foot in the White House since 2000. Presidents usually work to maintain their "game faces" when meeting foreign adversaries, but Trump was grinning from ear to ear. He was too gleeful, in fact, to bother reading the letter before committing to meet with Kim. "I may be in for a big surprise, folks," he said.

"Go figure," said **Nic Robertson** in *CNN.com*. Barely a week ago, Trump was protesting North Korea's "tremendous anger and hostility" and demanding that Kim agree to complete and rapid denuclearization as a pre-condition to any summit meeting. Now the president says the summit is merely a "getting to know you" opportunity—the



It was all smiles at the White House.

first step in a long process. So much for Trump's tough negotiating style. No matter what happens in Singapore, said **Robin Wright** in *The New Yorker*, Kim has already scored a great victory. By building nuclear weapons and ICBMs that can reach the U.S., Kim has gotten "a meeting with the world's most powerful leader." And by agreeing to negotiate with Trump, he's "been transformed from the head of a hermit kingdom ostracized and sanctioned by much of the world" to a leader with enormous leverage, sought out by China's president and the Putin regime.

Trump's "fervent narcissism" might actually be useful in his dealings with Kim, said **Bill Scher** in *Politico.com*. He will be willing to go further than his predecessors to satisfy Kim, perhaps by agreeing to gradually withdraw American troops from South Korea in return for gradual denuclearization. If Democrats truly prefer diplomacy to war, they shouldn't attack such a deal on partisan grounds. It's in all Americans' "long-term interests for North Korean diplomacy to succeed." The alternative—"a military crisis with a nuclear-armed Kim Jong Un—is too awful to contemplate."

Puerto Rico: The real death toll

We now know that Hurricane Maria's assault on Puerto Rico was one of the most "destructive natural disasters in recent American history," said **Vann Newkirk II** in *The Atlantic.com*. Virtually everyone knew that the official tally of 64 dead in the U.S. territory "was a massive undercount." But a recently published study by public health researchers at Harvard University puts the death toll of last year's hurricane at more than 70 times that figure. Researchers estimate that roughly 4,600 people died as a result of the storm, one-third of them due to lack of medical services. By comparison, the official death toll for Hurricane Katrina in 2005 was just over 1,800 people.

President Trump's "profound failure of leadership and management" contributed to Puerto Rico's agony, said **Jamelle Bouie** in *Slate.com*. The president could have rallied Americans behind the beleaguered island. "Instead, Trump sent every signal that he simply didn't care." When it became clear that the government's belated relief efforts were falling short, Trump responded by blaming the Puerto Ricans for not doing enough to help themselves, and picking a Twitter fight with the mayor of San Juan. Look at how differently Trump responded to Puerto Rico and Hous-

ton after Hurricane Harvey, said the Newark, N.J., *Star-Ledger* in an editorial. The government sent 73 helicopters to Houston within six days, whereas it took more than three weeks to send 70 to Puerto Rico; by then, many people had already died for lack of water, food, and medical care. FEMA quickly approved \$142 million in assistance for Harvey victims, compared with \$6.2 million for Maria victims. Nine days after Harvey, the feds had 30,000 personnel in Houston, while in the same time period, only 10,000 were sent to Puerto Rico. FEMA waited five days to send a hospital ship to San Juan. Why did the Trump administration treat Puerto Ricans like second-class citizens?

Clearly, we need a congressional investigation into this debacle, said **Jennifer Rubin** in *The Washington Post*. When four Americans were killed at a diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, Congress spent years trying to figure out why. Even if the Harvard study's estimates are too high, it's clear that hundreds, and more likely thousands, died—some of them needlessly. We need to know what the government could have done differently. "The people of Puerto Rico deserve at least that."

Samantha Bee: As bad as Roseanne?

Under what circumstances is it acceptable to call a female public figure the C-word? asked Megan McArdle in *The Washington Post*. Samantha Bee, a comedian and host of TBS's *Full Frontal*, has Americans debating that question after she called Ivanka Trump a "feckless c--t" last week for failing to object to her father's policy of separating migrant parents from their children. Since Bee's comment came just days after Trump supporter Roseanne Barr's show was canceled over her racist tweet, it got the partisan outrage cycle spinning again. Conservatives insisted Bee "had to go, too." Rallying behind Bee as a tribal ally, liberals said that "a woman using the coarsest sort of misogynistic vulgarity" wasn't as bad as a white woman comparing a black woman to an ape. Do you ever get the feeling liberals just make up the rules of this game as they go? asked Charles C.W. Cooke in *NationalReview.com*. The Left's only consistent argument is: "It's different when we do it."



Bee: An incendiary word

Bee should have known better, said Erin Gloria Ryan in *The Daily Beast*. The C-word is "a political comedy A-bomb," and by using it to describe the president's daughter, she's played

right into the Trumpists' hands. Instead of drawing attention to the administration's policy of breaking up immigrant families, which is far more obscene than any slur, all Bee has done is invite "performative pearl-clutching" over her cathartic use of an incendiary word. Barr's racist slur was worse, said Ruth Marcus in *The Washington Post*, and President Trump has some nerve calling for Bee's firing. After he was caught on tape bragging "about grabbing women by that body part," he has "forfeited any right to be heard on this subject."

I fully understand why my fellow conservatives want retribution, said Jonathan Tobin in *NationalReview.com*. Every night, late-night hosts such as Bee, Stephen Colbert, Bill Maher, and John Oliver unleash "a never-ending stream of abuse of President Trump, Republicans, and conservative ideas"—often in vile terms. But forming our own "PC lynch mobs," and demanding Bee's head in return for Barr's, isn't the right conservative response. Instead, let's call for an "amnesty for speech offenses." If you don't like what a comedian or TV host says, change the channel. "In a free country, free speech really should be free."

Trump's pardons: Setting a new standard

President Trump is on a pardoning spree, said Dahlia Lithwick and Mark Joseph Stern in *Slate.com*. Last week, Trump pardoned Dinesh D'Souza, a right-wing provocateur who pleaded guilty to felony campaign finance violations in 2014, and suggested there's more to come. Martha Stewart, who was convicted of lying to federal investigators, could be next. Trump may also commute former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's prison sentence for trying to sell Barack Obama's open U.S. Senate seat. Trump's motivations are obvious. Pardoning D'Souza, whose long history of racist trolling includes calling Obama "boy" and mocking Rosa Parks, is another reminder to hate-mongers that they "will always have a champion in the White House." The same was true of his pardon of the anti-immigrant, openly racist sheriff Joe Arpaio. And by doling out pardons for lying, obstruction of justice, and outright corruption, Trump is also sending a message to the likes of Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort, and Michael Cohen. "Everyone in America Who Helps Donald Trump will eventually get a pardon."

law—he funneled illegal donations to a Republican Senate candidate through straw donors—but such crimes are usually punished with a fine. Partisan prosecutors asked for a seven-year prison sentence, and D'Souza ultimately spent several months in a halfway house. The president's pardon powers are meant to serve as a bulwark against this kind of injustice. Sorry, but Trump's not interested in justice, said Jonathan Bernstein in *Bloomberg.com*. Previous presidents went through a rigorous Justice Department process of evaluating pardon requests, but Trump "has substituted personal and arbitrary standards," bypassing the pardon application process altogether. He's granting clemency to people who haven't even asked for it. This "looks a lot like autocratic rule."

Trump's shameless abuse of the pardon power may be one of his most damaging legacies, said David Graham in *TheAtlantic.com*. Under Trump, the pardon has been transformed from a rare instrument of mercy "into an everyday tool of culture war," used to reward the administration's friends and troll its enemies. Future presidents will naturally be tempted to follow suit. "New executive powers, once unsheathed, are seldom and only slowly reversed."

"President Trump's pardon of Dinesh D'Souza is just," said Andrew McCarthy in *NationalReview.com*. There's no question D'Souza broke the

Wit & Wisdom

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity."
Martin Luther King Jr.,
quoted in *Forbes.com*

"If my fellow citizens want to go to Hell, I will help them. It's my job."
Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.,
quoted in *The Atlantic*

"In America, anyone can become president. That's the problem."
George Carlin,
quoted in *BayToday.ca*

"The degree of civilization in a society is revealed by entering its prisons."
Fyodor Dostoevsky,
quoted in *The Globe and Mail*

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking that we used when we created them."
Albert Einstein,
quoted in *CityLab.com*

"Our liberties depend on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."
Thomas Jefferson,
quoted in *The Maryville Daily Forum*

"Life teaches you how to live it, if you live long enough."
Tony Bennett, quoted in *The Guardian*

Poll watch

■ **47%** of adult men surveyed on the #MeToo movement say that they have not discussed the movement with anyone, ever. But **35%** say they have "changed their dating habits" in response. *Glamour/GQ*

■ **72%** of U.S. adults say business owners should not be allowed to refuse service to gay customers on the grounds of religious freedom. **14%** say business owners do have that right. **9%** say business owners have that right "only in certain situations." *Reuters/Ipsos*

Streaming: Can YouTube Music topple Spotify?

“YouTube is singing a new song,” said Jefferson Graham in *USA Today*. The world’s most popular music video platform, with 1.8 billion global users, is taking on the likes of Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon in the increasingly lucrative music-streaming business. Mirroring the approach pioneered by market leader Spotify, YouTube Music, which launched last month, has two tiers: a free, ad-supported option and YouTube Music Premium, which costs \$9.99 per month and allows unlimited ad-free streaming and playlist curation. “One of the selling points for YouTube Music will be the ability to harness the endless amount of information Google knows about you,” said AJ Delinger in *Gizmodo.com*. With that data, the service hopes to “create customized listening experiences” and, aided by Google Assistant, deliver users “listening recommendations based on the time of day, location, and listening patterns.”

We’re finally getting “a legitimate challenger for Spotify and Apple Music,” said Micah Singleton in *TheVerge.com*. Having already acquired “the die-hard music fans and power users,” the other main music-streaming services have all “shifted their gaze toward the casual listener.” YouTube Music is no different, with “an emphasis on ease of use over everything else.” The app divides its music between three tabs: Home, Hotlist, and Library. The home tab is a “revelation” and



A new streaming option

will be a huge user draw, with constantly updated lists “tailored to your taste and to your location.” Hotlist is also interesting, essentially serving as “YouTube’s trending page but exclusively for music.” The Library tab compiles all of your downloads, saved music, recently played songs, and playlists and artists you’re following. What’s more, the way YouTube has “leveraged Google’s vast AI and search capabilities” is impressive. YouTube Music “has a real fighting chance in the streaming market.”

The fact you can’t automatically play a music video if one exists in the YouTube Music library is a “little strange,” said Todd Haselton in *CNBC.com*. “Instead, to find a video, you need to search for the song and then select the music video.” That seems like an unnecessary extra step. I think a bigger issue is that YouTube Music just doesn’t look “all that different from the competition,” said Ellis Clopton in *Variety.com*. The app’s user interface looks “incredibly familiar,” and even the artwork for YouTube’s curated playlists “seems derivative.” If you ask me, YouTube Music has likely arrived too late. Most music fans have already made their choice of streaming services and have carefully curated their personalized playlists. They’ll find the idea of switching “to an entirely new platform for essentially the same experience a chore.”

Innovation of the week

Scientists in Japan are a step closer to creating a genuine “cyborg,” said George Dvorsky in *Gizmodo.com*. Researchers have worked for years on



biohybrid robots, in which muscle tissue grown in a lab is attached to a robotic skeleton to help machines grasp objects and move. But over time, the engineered muscle tissue typically degrades and loses function. Now, University of Toyko researchers have created a “flexible finger-like robotic joint” with muscles that act more like living tissue. They incorporated electrodes to induce muscle contractions, as well as a type of stem cell that can mature into muscle cells, and then used two muscles in antagonistic pairs, with one contracting and the other expanding, just like in the human body. “The fact that they were exerting opposing forces on each other stopped them deteriorating,” said Shoji Takeuchi, one of the team leaders.

Bytes: What’s new in tech

Ancestry and 23andMe in spit-kit spat

“Genealogy products—tests that tell people where their ancestors hailed from and match them with distant family members—have captured the consumer imagination,” said Megan Molteni in *Wired.com*. The number of people who have submitted a saliva sample and had their DNA analyzed doubled last year to more than 15 million. But Ancestry.com, the industry’s biggest player, is being taken to court by rival 23andMe, accused of infringing on a “patented method for identifying relatives from tidbits of DNA.” 23andMe also accused its competition of “false advertising” and asked the court to nullify the trademarked “Ancestry” name. “The outcome of this lawsuit has the potential to reshape the genetic genealogy testing industry right as it’s beginning to boom.”

The myth of incognito mode

Chrome’s incognito mode “isn’t nearly as private as you think,” said Dylan Curran in *The Guardian*. The Google browser’s private option, which prevents Chrome from saving your browsing activities, has long offered users a sense of cover to peruse more “odious” corners of the web, believing their searches would vanish “into the ether of the internet.” Problem is, such surfing “doesn’t really disappear.”

By Google’s own admission, incognito mode allows you to “browse privately,” in that others using your device can’t see your browsing history. But that’s not to say *no one* can see your searches. Your history remains visible to the websites you visit, your employer if you are at work, or your internet service provider. And if you’re logged into your Google account, all of your account history is archived, including the incognito searches.

The benefit of a password manager

“Many of the added conveniences we’ve grown accustomed to come with their own annoyance: another password to remember,” said Katherine Bindley in *The Wall Street Journal*. For most of us, memorizing dozens of multicharacter passwords simply isn’t realistic. Neither is reusing a small number of passwords, which most experts agree is “a terrible idea” from a security standpoint. One increasingly popular solution: password managers. Essentially a vault that stores your passwords in one place, password managers use a master password to operate as a key unlocking access to all other passwords. After importing the log-ins you already use, it can “generate new—and most likely stronger—passwords for you,” and also fill in log-ins for preselected websites and apps.

Fewer Americans dying of cancer

Thanks to healthier habits and advances in treatments and detection, fewer men, women, and children in the U.S. are dying from cancer each year. A new government progress report on the “war” against the disease found that between 1999 and 2015, overall cancer death rates fell by 1.8 percent annually among men and by 1.4 percent each year among women, the *Los Angeles Times* reports. Fewer Americans died from many common forms of the disease, including lung, breast, prostate, and colon cancers. Overall, the number of new cancer cases dropped 1 percent per year between 2008

and 2014. Scientists attribute these positive trends to earlier diagnoses, new and improved treatment options, smoking cessation, and healthier lifestyle habits. “This year’s report is an encouraging indicator of progress we’re making in cancer research,” says National Cancer Institute director Dr. Ned Sharpless. But despite overall declines in cancer deaths, mortality rates for certain forms of the disease, including cancers of the liver, pancreas, uterus, and brain, are actually on the rise for complex reasons, such as hepatitis C infections (which affect the liver) and obesity, which raises risk for



A cancer patient receiving chemotherapy

various forms of cancer. Cancer remains the No. 2 cause of death in the U.S.



Loch Ness: Looking for traces of a monster

Hunting for Nessie’s DNA

The emerging field of environmental DNA, also known as eDNA, will soon determine once and for all if there is any truth to the legend of the Loch Ness Monster. In the past, scientists have used sonar, satellite tracking, and underwater photography to search for any evidence of the long-necked reptilian beast purportedly dwelling in the murky waters of Scotland’s Loch Ness. Nothing has been found to substantiate the hazy photos and anecdotal reports that helped create the Nessie myth. In coming weeks, an international team of researchers will scour the lake for tiny bits of DNA left behind in the skin, scales, feathers, urine, saliva, feces, and other bodily secretions of any creatures that have ever touched the water. If the fabled “Nessie” exists now or ever did occupy the waters of Loch Ness, its telltale genetic signature is still there. This DNA can be sequenced and compared with large databases that contain the genetic code of hundreds of thousands of different organisms. “I’m going into this thinking it’s unlikely there is a monster,” lead researcher Neil Gemmill tells *The Guardian*, “but I want to test that hypothesis.” As a bonus, scientists will learn more about new invasive species in the lake and get a detailed snapshot of its entire ecosystem.

Diagnosis by artificial intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) can detect skin

cancer more accurately than experienced dermatologists, new research shows. Scientists in the United States, Germany, and France taught a machine learning system known as a deep-learning convolutional neural network (CNN) to identify skin cancer, by showing it

more than 100,000 images of malignant melanomas and harmless moles. When pitted against the skills and experience of 58 dermatologists from 17 different countries, the machine came out on top. The CNN correctly identified 95 percent of melanomas out of a total of 300 images. In a similar test, the doctors picked up 87 percent of melanomas. The humans’ accuracy improved slightly once they were given additional photos and patient information, but even doctors with many years of experience were still bested by the CNN, which missed fewer melanomas and misdiagnosed fewer benign moles, reports *ScienceDaily.com*. It’s still too early to use AI in standard clinical practice, doctors who reviewed the study said, but sooner rather than later, machines will be making diagnoses.

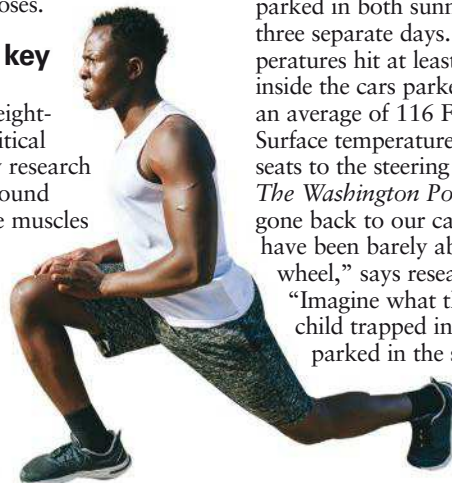
Leg movement key for brain health

Using your legs in weight-bearing exercise is critical for brain health, new research shows. Researchers found that moving the large muscles in the legs, through activities such as walking, climbing stairs, and running, triggers the production of stem cells in the brain—helping that critical organ to renew itself. “We are

meant to be active: to walk, run, crouch to sit, and use our leg muscles to lift things,” study author Raffaella Adami tells *MedicalNewsToday.com*. For the study, researchers immobilized the hind legs of a group of mice for 28 days, then examined a specific area of their brains known as the subventricular zone. They found the neural stem cell activity of the mice had plummeted by 70 percent. Declines in oxygen levels associated with reduced physical activity also altered the rodents’ metabolism. These findings may explain why the health of people who are bedridden often deteriorates rapidly.

Health scare of the week Hot cars deadly for kids

It would take just an hour for young children left in a car on a hot summer day to suffer from heatstroke, a new study found. In that time, the kids’ body temperature would soar to 104 degrees Fahrenheit, which could lead to confusion, rapid breathing, vomiting, seizures, and organ damage. Researchers at Arizona State University came to this grim conclusion after monitoring the temperatures inside six different cars parked in both sunny and shady spots on three separate days. When outdoor temperatures hit at least 95 F, the temperature inside the cars parked in the sun reached an average of 116 F in just 60 minutes. Surface temperatures in the cars, from the seats to the steering wheel, exceeded 120 F, *The Washington Post* reports. “We’ve all gone back to our cars on hot days and have been barely able to touch the steering wheel,” says researcher Nancy Selover. “Imagine what that would be like to a child trapped in a car seat.” Even when parked in the shade, the cars reached internal temperatures of 100 F, which could be deadly for small children.





Review of reviews: Books

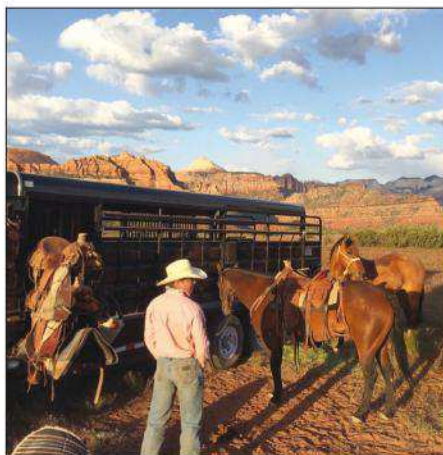
Book of the week

The Last Cowboys: A Pioneer Family in the New West

by John Branch

(Norton, \$27)

Life for a cattle-ranching family “never seems to get easier,” said Michael Schaub in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. At least not for Bill and Evelyn Wright and their 13 adult children and 30-plus grandchildren, who together manage a herd of hundreds on land near Zion National Park in southwest Utah. Tough and self-reliant, the Wrights have ties to Smith Mesa’s beautiful, forbidding landscape dating back 150 years, but Bill, who’s now in his early 60s, can see that the business won’t likely sustain the family much longer. In *The Last Cowboys*, an “excellent, compassionate” book by a Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* feature writer, the Wrights are allowed to speak for themselves, and they never whine about the key challenges they face: drought and the rising cost of federal grazing land. In their world, “nothing is certain for very long.”



Jesse Wright at the family's Utah ranch

“It’s impossible not to find Bill earthy and real,” said Nathan Deuel in the *Los Angeles Times*. He’s both a rodeo rider and a hands-on rancher, and he says things like “Worst ride I ever had was better than my best walk.” Because so many of his sons and grandsons are world-class rodeo riders at the peak of their careers, he spends a lot of time overseeing his 1,200 arid acres alone, but when they join him, “we fall in

love as well with the larger family’s ingenuity and way of life.” They pool resources to keep the ranch afloat and pool knowledge about the broncs they ride in competition. As the pages flow by, “certain readers will hunger for sharper and more debatable insights about range management and the West.” But that’s not the book John Branch has written.

Branch is simply interested in what a single remarkable family does to sustain an idyllic way of life, and rodeo becomes a big part of that group effort, said Amanda Olson in Salt Lake City’s *Deseret News*. “His descriptions of the Wright boys’ rides are often as breathtaking as witnessing the actual eight seconds,” and when, early on, he offers a primer on the sport, “his writing is so good, the important information comes off as casually as a conversation.” Rodeo is a brutal sport, generating countless shattered bones and head injuries, yet all of it folds seamlessly into a book that “makes a beautiful case” for why our country needs families like the Wrights: “They represent the hope and the elbow grease we’ve outsourced to our distractions, our expectations, and our plans to get ahead.”

Novel of the week

There There

by Tommy Orange

(Knopf, \$26)

“Everything about *There There* acknowledges a brutal legacy of subjugation—and shatters it,” said Ron Charles in *The Washington Post*. With his first novel, Tommy Orange, a 36-year-old Oakland native and a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, has devised a storytelling structure that’s defiant in itself: He opens with a blistering essay, then leaps between 12 contemporary Native American characters while gradually revealing that all intend to gather in Oakland for a major powwow. Some see it as a chance to understand or celebrate their heritage; a few see it as the perfect setup for a robbery. Meanwhile, “in varying degrees, their vague sense of ethnic pride is infected by a toxic germ of shame.” *There There* “has soft spots,” including a Grand Guignol ending that’s not as satisfying as it should be, said Dwight Garner in *The New York Times*. Still, the novel “has so much jangling energy and brings so much news from a distinct corner of American life that it’s a revelation.”

Calypso

by David Sedaris

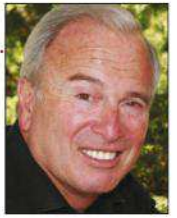
(Little, Brown, \$28)



At this point, “David Sedaris is practically his own genre,” said Rachel Manteuffel in *The Washington Post*. After 25 years and nine collections, fans of the popular essayist know pretty much what to expect—“wry, well-shaped, almost-true stories from his own life,” each one sharply observed and laced with dark humor. In *Calypso*’s 21 entries, Sedaris, now 61, muses on fad diets, book tours, sleepwalking, his Fitbit app, and life in the English countryside, where he now lives with his longtime partner, Hugh, and where he has become obsessed with picking up roadside litter. But for this outing, the tone is slightly darker and the subject matter knottier, said Alan Cumming in *The New York Times*. We see “not just the nimble-mouthed elf of his previous work,” but also “a man in his seventh decade expunging his darker secrets and contemplating mortality.”

The most sobering pieces concern family, said Heller McAlpin at *NPR.org*. Here, as before, reading Sedaris on family can be “like tuning in to a spectacularly well-written sitcom.” But not everything’s funny. He writes that he and his father have spent all of life failing to fully connect, “like a pair of bad trapeze artists, reaching for each other’s hands and missing every time.” He also addresses his deceased mother’s alcoholism and the family’s failure to confront it. And he opens up about his troubled youngest sister, Tiffany, who killed herself in 2013. Sedaris hadn’t spoken to her in eight years, and he confesses that once, when she tried to come backstage after one of his readings, he directed a security guard to keep her out.

“While *Calypso* features Sedaris’ signature wit, its effect has changed,” said David Canfield in *Entertainment Weekly*. “At its best, his humor buttresses a sadness here”—a longing to connect and heal before it’s too late, whether the ruptures are within the Sedaris family or within an America seemingly tearing itself apart. “Therein lies Sedaris’ genius—he reflects the culture inwardly. Through his peculiar mind, Sedaris captures biting truths, documenting with journalistic precision his quiet public indignities, and milking them for all their tragicomic worth.”



Author of the week

Seymour Hersh

"Seymour Hersh is not so much a journalist as a terrier," said **Josephine Livingstone** in *NewRepublic.com*. In his new memoir, *Reporter*, the 81-year-old but far-from-retired investigative journalism legend repeatedly exhibits a



monomaniacal focus on whatever story he's chasing. He once was introduced to John Lennon and had to be

reminded who Lennon was, because Watergate was bigger to him than the Beatles. Another time, he was so determined to stretch a 4,000-word CIA exposé to 5,000 words that he called his *New York Times* editor at home at 2 a.m. to beg for a remapping of that morning's paper. When the editor's wife picked up and revealed, bitterly, that her husband had left her, he briefly felt awful for troubling her. Then he called her back to try to get the new girlfriend's number.

Hersh initially resisted the idea that the time was right for him to look back on his role in exposing the My Lai massacre, torture at Abu Ghraib, and countless other Washington misdeeds, said **Michael Grynsbaum** in *The New York Times*. "I'm still doing it," he says. And that's true. After parting ways with *The New Yorker* in 2015 and going elsewhere to publish an account of Osama bin Laden's killing that frequently contradicts the official version, he's found various homes for his scoops while working on a book that targets former Vice President Dick Cheney. Some of his recent reporting has been questioned, but Hersh is used to doubters, and he even gives his ex-*New Yorker* boss a pass for tiring of the controversies he created. "It's inevitable that you wear out an editor—you just wear them out," he says. "I'm mouthy, too, so there you are."

Best books... chosen by Ken Auletta

Ken Auletta, *The New Yorker's senior media correspondent*, is the author of *Googled*, *Three Blind Mice*, and other nonfiction best-sellers. Below, Auletta recommends six books that shaped *Frenemies*, his new portrait of the advertising industry in crisis.

Confessions of an Advertising Man by David Ogilvy (Southbank, \$20). In a story reminiscent of Matthew Weiner's brilliant *Mad Men* series, Ogilvy offers an enjoyable jaunt back to a time when creatives rather than quants ruled advertising. He shares backstories to his most memorable ad campaigns, including his favorite: "At 60 Miles an Hour the Loudest Noise in This New Roll-Royce Comes From the Electric Clock."

Madison Avenue U.S.A. by Martin Mayer (out of print). Although this 1958 book suffers from its celebratory nature, Mayer was an energetic scribe who secured access to virtually everyone who populated advertising, from lowly copywriters to account executives, all at a time when a single avenue defined the entire industry.

Where the Suckers Moon by Randall Rothenberg (Vintage, \$17). A former *New York Times* advertising columnist takes the reader inside each stage of a campaign to sell Subaru to America. Along the way we are treated to delicious glimpses of comedy and chaos, salesmen posing as artists, and executives who truly believe they are doing good.

The Hidden Persuaders by Vance Packard (Ig, \$17). In 1957, this powerful best-selling exposé of the ad business indicted the industry for treating consumers like 6-year-olds. Less than a decade later, a celebrated Coca-Cola commercial featured children of all colors and nationalities on a hilltop harmonizing "I'd like to teach the world to sing." It was a great example of Packard's thesis, providing emotional uplift but also zero information about the product.

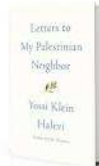
No Logo by Naomi Klein (Picador, \$20). A smart and entertaining writer, Klein works like a skilled anthropologist to dissect the mumbo jumbo of too many ad executives—self-proclaimed "brand stewards" who instead sound like characters in a Sinclair Lewis novel.

The Attention Merchants by Tim Wu (Vintage, \$17). In addition to offering a vivid historical sweep of the ad business, Wu is an acute critic of advertising's hokum and how the Attention Merchants intrude on our privacy. My only quibble with Wu is that he recommends replacing ads with subscriptions. Most Americans simply need the advertising subsidy.

Also of interest... in crossing boundaries

Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor

by Yossi Klein Halevi (Harper, \$25)

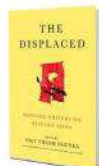


"Yossi Klein Halevi is a very brave man," said Anna Porter in *The Globe and Mail* (Canada). The Israeli journalist and scholar holds out hope that Palestinians and his fellow Jews can still reach an understanding, and

his new book calls on each of the communities to recognize the other's legitimacy as well as its spiritual claims to the land they share. His optimism might be misplaced; still, "I hope the book reaches its intended audiences."

The Displaced

(Abrams, \$25)

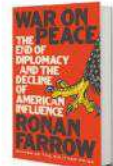


This collection of essays, edited by the novelist Viet Thanh Nguyen, does more than merely put faces to the world's refugees, said Tim Adams in *TheGuardian.com*. Nguyen and 17 other writers—including

Aleksandar Hemon and Marina Lewycka—share their own experiences with displacement and immigration, and their "beautifully, often angrily told" stories remind us why every culture needs newcomers: "Those who have journeyed farthest have invariably gained the most perspective."

War on Peace

by Ronan Farrow (Norton, \$28)

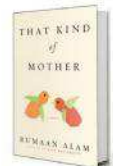


Ronan Farrow's first book "doesn't entirely hang together as an argument," said Rosa Brooks in *The Washington Post*. But that's OK.

Farrow, whose reporting has made him a hero of the #MeToo movement, once served under diplomat Richard Holbrooke, and he's put together an appreciation and defense of diplomacy that's "full of telling anecdotes and wry, witty observations." Farrow argues that the U.S. is turning away from diplomatic work at its own peril, and his passion is admirable.

That Kind of Mother

by Rumaan Alam (Ecco, \$27)



Rumaan Alam's "absorbing, frustrating" second novel is "good at throwing curveballs," said Laura Collins-Hughes in *The Boston Globe*. His protagonist is a wealthy white woman who ends up adopting her

black nanny's infant, and as the story unfolds, Alam "poses important questions about race, privilege, and the nature of family." Though he doesn't always convincingly inhabit his female characters' minds, he's very good at capturing the unexpected ways that families evolve.

Exhibit of the week Bodys Isek Kingelez: City Dreams

Museum of Modern Art, New York City, through Jan. 1

Meet “the artist all of New York will be talking about this summer,” said **Sebastian Smce** in *The Washington Post*. Bodys Isek Kingelez, who died three years ago at 66, finally has been honored with a solo exhibition in the United States, and his festive, sui generis work is sure to make fans of most everyone who sees it. Kingelez, a native of rural Congo, did just one thing: He made manifest his own utopian visions by creating model buildings and cityscapes from paper, cardboard, plastic, and a variety of common materials, then meticulously decorated the deliriously inventive structures with paint, ink, crayon, and colored pencil. But the people-less imaginary worlds he thus created have an “entrancing, otherworldly” effect. “There is something almost excruciating about the way Kingelez’s models enfold playful utopian optimism in an aura of blank desolation.”

Consider the context, though, said **Roberta Smith** in *The New York Times*. Kingelez



Kingelez’s Ville Fantôme (1996)

was 22 when he moved to Kinshasa, his nation’s capital, 10 years after the country achieved independence from Belgium’s tyrannical rule and shortly before the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko began an ambitious building and cultural renewal program that led to renaming the land Zaire. The college-educated Kingelez made the dream his own, yet came to realize his model cities could critique reality too. He’d invent a palatial home for AIDS patients, say, or for Palestinians. And his finished cityscapes, gleefully borrowing architectural elements

from Chinese pagodas, art deco, *The Jetsons*, and Las Vegas, manage to at once “celebrate, criticize, and satirize.” As objects, “they are among the most distinctive and ambiguous creations in the histories of sculpture, architectural model making, and the decorative arts.” Beyond any other message they convey, “they reaffirm visual joy as the sustaining life force that it is.”

MoMA adds a bit of “well-intentioned” but unnecessary virtual-reality pizzazz, said **Peter Schjeldahl** in *The New Yorker*. Visitors can don headsets to feel as if they have stepped inside Kingelez’s masterpiece, an 18-by-7-foot cityscape titled *Ville Fantôme*, and can leap from its skyscraper rooftops to its ornamented plazas. That’s fun, but “more about the VR medium” than about Kingelez’s creation. I’d rather spend time circling the work itself with a pair of opera glasses. Kingelez was “a great and subtle colorist,” a master of decorative pattern, and a flawless synthesizer of multiple architectural styles. “The work’s effect demands an oxymoron: daintily powerful, say, or deliriously serene.” Kingelez himself merits a different and shorter descriptor: “genius.”

Neko Case Hell-On

★★★★★



Neko Case’s first solo album in five years is easily “her most complex creative endeavor yet,” said **Hal Horowitz** in *AmericanSongwriter.com*. Now 47, the ever-evolving singer-songwriter has traced a fascinating trajectory over the past 25 years, transitioning from “talented dark-hued country chanteuse” to “increasingly experimental indie-pop auteur.” Her lyrics have grown more cryptic, though, and while the 12 songs here include a couple of catchy tunes (particularly the single “Bad Luck”), most of the others are more convoluted, and “easier to admire than enjoy.” Maybe that could be said of her previous album, said **Katie Rife** in *AVClub.com*. Here we get genre-resistant songwriting at its best, restlessly inventive but lifted by forceful melodies. “A strong emotional through-line” links every track as Case shows herself standing unbowed despite the unknowability of others’ hearts and, more grandly, the indifference of nature to human life. Her voice is itself a force of nature, “as powerful as the wind and as life-giving as the sea.”

Father John Misty God’s Favorite Customer

★★★★★



For Father John Misty to make a stripped-down, soul-baring album “almost seems too calculated,” said **Jeremy Larson** in *Pitchfork.com*. Misty, the egotistical persona that singer-songwriter Josh Tillman has inhabited on four fine albums since 2012, ostensibly wrote most of the 10 songs here during a two-month stretch when Tillman was holed up in a hotel after his marriage hit a rough patch. But don’t worry if Misty’s confessions and self-interrogations can’t entirely be trusted: “Witnessing his arduous journey from a louche cynic to a man stripped absolutely bare makes for rapt listening,” and this gentle, lush, ballad-laden album is “as hook-filled as it is heartrending.” Tillman’s intentional overwriting can get silly, and there’s “a certain sourness” in the disdain his alter ego displays for his hipster audience, said **Leah Greenblatt** in *Entertainment Weekly*. “But when Tillman is good, he is very good, a master of classic melody, even if the source is meta, and something like a true poet when he wants to be.”

Kanye West Ye

★★★★★



“Temptingly sweet but disconcertingly handled,” Kanye West’s new seven-song album is like a collapsed, undercooked cake, said **Craig Jenkins** in *NYMag.com*. Arriving just a month after the mercurial producer-rapper upset fans by labeling slavery “a choice,” the record is unusually quiet and reaffirms that “his true gift is making old soul and gospel records sing.” But West—following a stretch when he embraced Donald Trump, learned he was bipolar, and developed an opioid addiction—has much to explain, and he never should have attempted to rewrite this record in just weeks. Peppered with provocative lyrics, including about murder-suicide, *Ye* is the rushed work of a man “whose concept of free speech is that he gets to say whatever he likes without consequence.” His stumble here might not matter for long, said **Greg Kot** in the *Chicago Tribune*. West produced a string of short albums now being released by other artists, including Pusha T, Kid Cudi, and Nas. And with Kanye, “redemption is always one hit away.”

Hereditary

Directed by Ari Aster
(R)



A cursed family
rots from within.

With his first feature film, director Ari Aster has created an *Exorcist* for our time, said **Joshua Rothkopf** in *Time Out New York*. A horror movie about an unraveling family, *Hereditary* “creeps forward with an inexorable sense of doom,” and when the worst happens, as you expected it would, “you feel like you’re watching the world crack open: Things fly out that you’ll want to unsee.” Toni Collette stars as Annie, an artist who creates dollhouse-like dioramas. Annie is also a mother whose own, difficult mother has just passed away, and in “scene after ruinous scene,” Collette infuses the character with “an incantatory energy



Collette's rattled control freak

pitched somewhere between confidence and psychotic breakdown.” Annie’s son (Alex Wolff) and disturbed daughter (Milly Shapiro) can’t seem to escape grandma’s spirit, and thus tap into the film’s true terror, said **Alissa Wilkinson** in *Vox.com*. “*Hereditary* is obsessed with how our parentage, our DNA, the things we can’t change about ourselves shape our future”—how we are pawns in a larger game we don’t fully comprehend. “This isn’t a scary movie; it’s pure emotional terrorism,” said **A.A. Dowd** in *AVClub.com*. “It’s hard to imagine a more frightening movie this year,” yet “even the jump scares feel psychologically loaded.”

Adrift

Directed by
Baltasar Kormákur
(PG-13)



A storm blasts
two lovers at sea.

“*Adrift* is what you might call a pleasant-surprise picture,” said **Chris Nashawaty** in *Entertainment Weekly*. Walking in, you expect merely a competent dramatization of a real-life high-seas disaster. But director Baltasar Kormákur “has a knack for making the pedestrian feel surprising and fresh,” and his thrilling survival scenes almost cancel out the “slightly sappy” romance that sets the stage. Even Shailene Woodley, a reliable actress and this picture’s producer, struggles with those flashback scenes, said **Michael Phillips** in the *Chicago Tribune*. Fortunately, the story we



Woodley: A woman at the wheel

care about is how young Tami Oldham braved an impossible situation after a hurricane wrecked the yacht she and her fiancé were sailing on, and she “actually looks, moves, and responds like someone who knows her way around a craft on water.” Thanks to clever story management, the storm itself arrives late and delivers “a hell of a climax,” said **Justin Chang** in the *Los Angeles Times*. But the same narrative strategy renders *Adrift* “maybe too easy to watch.” The flashbacks let viewers regularly escape the ordeal of 41 days at sea. That feels, by the end, “like an evasion.”

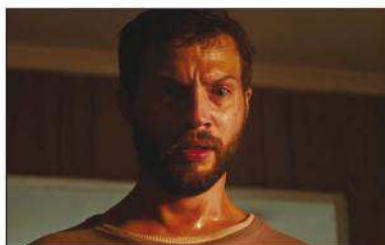
Upgrade

Directed by
Leigh Whannell
(R)



A quadriplegic becomes a
killing machine.

“*Upgrade* is sci-fi pulp that comes packed with ideas,” said **Rafer Guzmán** in *Newsday*. Inspired by such 1980s fare as *Terminator* and *RoboCop*, this “hugely enjoyable” B movie takes a fairly ordinary premise and makes it feel new—or at least newly relevant.” Logan Marshall-Green stars as Grey Trace, a man who’s left paralyzed after an attack by mysterious assailants but who regains control of his limbs when he agrees to have a computer chip implanted in his neck. But the chip also gives him the power to pulverize any potential opponent, and the device has a mind of its own—a mind that wants murderous violence.



Marshall-Green: ‘Bone-deep hilarious’

That twist feels “new and electric,” said **Alan Scherstuhl** in *VillageVoice.com*. “As Grey’s body carves up villains, Grey’s face is aghast, disgusted, horrified—and, of course, a little turned on.” By making the audience complicit in the violence, the movie “plays like the smarter-than-you’d-think 2018 version of some 1988 kill-em-all VHS cheapie.” Not that *Upgrade* wants to be particularly smart, said **Emily Yoshida** in *NYPMag.com*. It instead makes dark farce from our man-vs.-machine fears, and watching Grey fail over and over to tame his embedded demon proves “hilarious on a bone-deep level.”

New on DVD and Blu-ray

Annihilation

(Paramount, \$18)

The recent adaptation of Jeff VanderMeer’s sci-fi best-seller is “as gorgeous as it is disturbing,” said *The Arizona Republic*. Natalie Portman plays a biologist investigating a swampland where life is mysteriously mutating, and though the climax offers no easy answers, “it’s a better movie because of it.”

A Wrinkle in Time

(Disney, \$20)

Though at times “feverishly overwrought,” Ava DuVernay’s adaptation of Madeleine L’Engle’s beloved children’s book is worth seeing for its “go-for-broke” exuberance, said the *Los Angeles Times*. Oprah Winfrey plays one of the three goddesses who help a teen travel across dimensions to find her missing father.

Thoroughbreds

(Universal, \$18)

Olivia Cooke and Anya Taylor-Joy show “startling talent” in this “deliciously depraved” murder tale about disaffected wealthy teens who decide to off a loathsome stepfather, said *Rolling Stone*. The hit man they hire shows more humanity, creating a “hypnotically feverish” drama “fueled by stinging wit.”

Movies on TV

Monday, June 11

The Goonies

Young misfits search for lost treasure in a bid to save their neighborhood from being razed by a rich developer. Josh Brolin co-stars. (1985) 4 p.m., AMC

Tuesday, June 12

The Karate Kid

In another 1980s teen classic, Ralph Macchio plays a new kid in town who girds himself against bullies by seeking the help of a Japanese karate master. (1984) 9:30 p.m., Ovation

Wednesday, June 13

Winter's Bone

Jennifer Lawrence earned her breakout playing an Ozark Mountains teenager who has to find her meth-dealer father to save the family home. (2010) 11:35 p.m., Epix

Thursday, June 14

Yankee Doodle Dandy

James Cagney plays George M. Cohan, looking back on his climb from vaudeville prodigy to patriotic songsmith worthy of a congressional Medal of Honor. (1942) 8 p.m., TCM

Friday, June 15

Walking Out

A 14-year-old who reluctantly joins his father for a Montana hunting trip ends up being their only hope for survival in a stirring indie drama. (2017) 10 p.m., Showtime

Saturday, June 16

Man in the Wilderness

Years before Leo DiCaprio resurrected the role, Richard Harris was captivating as an 1820s frontier scout who survives a mauling by a bear to track the men who left him for dead. (1971) 10:15 p.m., TCM

Sunday, June 17

Braveheart

Mel Gibson leads the Scots' fight for independence from England in a period war drama that netted its star a Best Picture Oscar. (1995) 8 p.m., IFC

The Week's guide to what's worth watching

Drinks, Crime and Prohibition

The America that outlawed booze may have planted a bit of outlaw in all of us. This new, two-part history of Prohibition reminds us how much the 18th Amendment redefined the nation's character—initially by making the federal government a force in people's personal lives for the first time and giving them reason to resent it. Soon enough, the ban on alcohol would empower organized crime and trigger lasting expansions in federal law enforcement and the prison system. *Begins Monday, June 11, at 8 p.m., Smithsonian*

The Last Defense

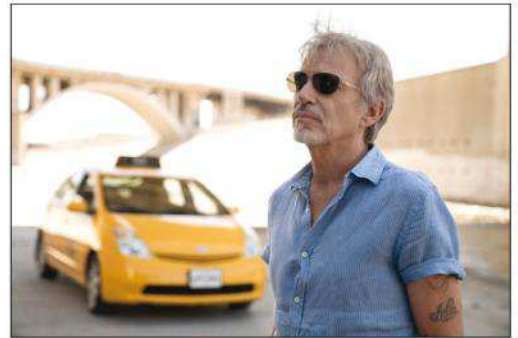
Darlie Routier has been on death row in Texas for more than 20 years. But did the mother of three kill her two young sons in June 1996, or had she survived a stabbing by the same intruder she claimed killed the boys? This new, seven-part series, co-produced by actress Viola Davis, reopens the Routier file and a second death-penalty case in Oklahoma to shed light on flaws in the criminal justice system that call into question its capacity to decide such cases beyond a reasonable doubt. *Tuesday, June 12, at 10 p.m., ABC*

Goliath

Billy Bob Thornton was riveting enough in the first season of this streaming series about an underdog attorney to win a Golden Globe Award. Season 2 gives hitmaker David E. Kelley (*Big Little Lies*) a chance to iron out the show's flaws. Coming off his courtroom victory against a corporate behemoth, Thornton's William McBride is still drinking, but he chooses to defend a friend's teenage son when the boy is accused of murder in a case tied to high-level corruption. Mark Duplass and Morris Chestnut join the cast. *Available for streaming Friday, June 15, Amazon*

Breaking Big

No two success stories are completely alike. This new, 12-part interview series goes in depth with one high achiever at a time to examine how each broke through. Country singer Jason Aldean, NFL legend Michael Strahan, SoulCycle co-founder Ruth Zukerman, and San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz will all eventually share their

Goliath's Thornton: *Echoes of Chinatown*

stories. But up first is *Daily Show* host and South Africa native Trevor Noah. *Friday, June 15, at 8:30 p.m., PBS; check local listings*

The Staircase

Netflix may have found a new binge-worthy true-crime series. In 2001, the wife of crime novelist Michael Peterson was found dead at the bottom of a set of stairs in the couple's North Carolina home after Peterson called 911 to report that she'd fallen. Prosecutors countered that he'd bludgeoned her to death with a fireplace poker, leading to a series of wild swings in fortune that filmmaker Jean-Xavier de Lestrade turned into an award-winning docuseries even before the dramatic twists that he's incorporated into this expanded series. *Currently available on Netflix*

Other highlights**The Affair**

Dominic West and Ruth Wilson return in a series that began with a steamy extramarital romance and keeps finding new entangling liaisons. *Sunday, June 17, at 9 p.m., Showtime*

Deep State

Max Strong stars in a new series about an ex-spy lured into a covert Middle Eastern intelligence operation. *Sunday, June 17, at 9 p.m., Epix*

Masterpiece: Man in an Orange Shirt

Vanessa Redgrave headlines a drama about two gay relationships separated by 60 years. *Sunday, June 17, at 9 p.m., PBS; check local listings*

*Mr. and Mrs. Parsons: Reynor with Bella Heathcote***Show of the week****Strange Angel**

Jack Parsons was an odd one, indeed. In the 1930s, Parsons was a Los Angeles factory worker with a passion for rocket engineering. His dangerous tinkering panned out, establishing him as an industry pioneer. But there was a darker side to the eccentric inventor, rooted in the esoteric teachings of Aleister Crowley, whose radically libertine Thelemite religion promoted magic and bizarre sex rituals. In this new web-only series, Irish actor Jack Reynor brings Parsons and his strange passions to life. *Available for streaming Thursday, June 14, CBS All Access*

LEISURE

Food & Drink

Moroccan tagine: It's more about the method than the pot

No, you don't need a special pot to make a tagine, says Anissa Helou in *Feast: Food of the Islamic World*. In Morocco, the traditional earthenware pots that give the stew its name are used mostly by street vendors and rural folk. In the cities, the majority of home cooks make tagine in a heavy cast-iron or stainless steel pot, then transfer it to a beautifully decorated ceramic dish for serving at the table.

In the tagine below, the sweet flavor of carrots is "exquisitely offset" by the tartness of lemons and saltiness of olives. You can substitute a whole chicken for the poussins, but don't swap out the preserved lemons—which you can make yourself if you put them up in a cool, dark place a few weeks ahead of time.

Note that for a tagine, the meat is browned after it has cooked and the cooking liquid has evaporated down to a silky sauce. I love to serve this tagine with a Moroccan bread flavored with anise and sesame seed.

Recipe of the week

Poussin tagine with carrots, olives, and preserved lemon

2 tbsp olive oil
1 medium onion, finely grated
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped



True Moroccans serve tagines family-style.

¼ bunch flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
¾ tsp ground ginger
½ tsp finely ground black pepper
A good pinch of saffron threads
Sea salt
2 poussins or Cornish hens, or substitute
4 quail or a whole chicken
1 lb Chantenay or baby carrots, trimmed and brushed clean
A few sprigs cilantro, leaves only, finely chopped
Juice of 1 lemon
3½ oz unpitted Kalamata olives
½ preserved lemon (see below), peel only, sliced into thin julienne

In a heavy pot, mix olive oil, onion, gar-

lic, parsley, spices, and a little sea salt. Spread to cover bottom and lay poussins, breast up, on top. Add 2 cups water and bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium, cover, and let bubble gently for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally to make sure poussins don't stick to pan.

Add carrots, cilantro (reserving some for garnish), lemon juice, olives, and preserved lemon. Reduce heat to medium-low and let simmer until poussins and carrots are done and the sauce has thickened, about 15 minutes.

Transfer poussins to a serving dish. If sauce is still too liquid, increase heat and let it bubble uncovered until it thickens and becomes somewhat silky. Arrange carrots and olives around poussins and spoon sauce all over. Garnish with reserved chopped cilantro. Serves 2 to 4.

Preserved lemons

Wash unwaxed lemons and quarter lengthwise without cutting all the way through, leaving quarters attached at one end. Spread 1 tsp sea salt inside each of 2 quarters for a total of 2 tsp per lemon. Pack lemons tightly in a canning jar and seal. Let sit for 3 to 4 weeks.

Drinks: Session cocktails

A great cocktail doesn't have to knock you down, said Jane Black in *The New York Times*. "As another summer arrives, low-proof drinks are moving into wide circulation," marking a refreshing return to the thinking of old, when even martinis were half vermouth. The keepers below appear in the new book *Session Cocktails* by Drew Lazor and the editors of *Punch* magazine:

Basilinia (pictured) In a rock glass, use a muddler to lightly crush 3 basil leaves and 2 lime wedges. Add 2 oz white vermouth. Top with crushed ice and stir.

Sunny Day Real Estate In a cocktail shaker, combine 2 oz vermouth, ¾ oz raspberry syrup, and ½ oz each Aperol and lemon juice. Add ice, shake, then strain into an ice-filled glass. Top with soda water and garnish with lemon.

Stardust Combine ½ oz crème de cassis and 1 oz Earl Grey tea. Add ice, stir, strain into a glass, and add 3 oz Champagne.



L.A.'s Thai Town: A whole nation in one neighborhood

Not far from the Hollywood Walk of Fame lies an ethnic neighborhood that's "a whole different world," said Noy Thrupkaew in *The Washington Post*. Los Angeles' Thai Town plays crossroads to the largest Thai population in the U.S., so it's a great place to sample regional Thai cooking, from the "blood, bile, and bitter herbs" of Northern Thai cuisine to the "incendiary funk" of Southern seafood. Below, a morning-to-night sampling.

Siam Sunset Ignore the name, because this is a prime spot for breakfast—"a daytime dive that serves up soul-satisfying comfort." Order a \$2 iced

coffee and decide between a savory, oatmeal-esque rice porridge and \$5 specials such as spicy curry with noodles, perfumed by Thai basil. *5265 Sunset Blvd., (323) 467-8935*

Jitlada Because it's packed every night, try this casual strip-mall spot at lunchtime to sample such Southern Thai specialties as fish-kidney curry or the acacia-leaf omelet. If you fear heat or pungent odors, no worries: Jitlada also serves steamed mussels in fragrant, lemon grass-spiked broth, and some "addictive" salads, including one featuring spinach that's been battered and fried. *5233 Sunset Blvd., (323) 667-9809*

Lacha Somtum To appreciate the "tart, punchy," lime-lashed northeastern Thai cuisine, get to know *som tum*—a term that describes a variety of dishes made by mashing the ingredients together with a mortar and pestle. The "most assertive" expression of som tum here is the salted black crab with fermented fish paste: "For those who love its haunting, basso-profundo pitch, all others pale in comparison." If that's too adventurous, "the fermented sausages and spicy pork-rib soup are also delicious." *5171 Hollywood Blvd., (323) 486-7380*



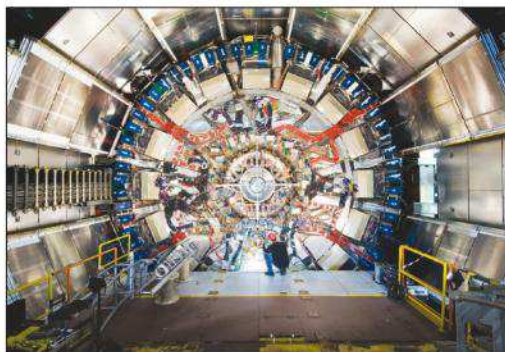
Lunchtime at Jitlada

This week's dream: A giant science experiment beneath Switzerland

I recently took a trip to “an exuberant foreign country” called science, said Peter Kujawinski in *The New York Times*.

The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) outside the Swiss city of Geneva is “arguably the world’s most famous science facility.” It’s home to the world’s largest machine, the Large Hadron Collider, a 17-mile particle accelerator that lies several hundred feet beneath the Swiss-French border. Tours of CERN have been quick to fill up since 2012, when the collider detected the Higgs boson—the long-theorized elementary particle that gives everything in the universe its mass. So as soon as I found an open spot on the tour earlier this year, I booked a flight—“and started brushing up on my physics.”

I struggled to understand some of the lingo used by my group’s guide, retired CERN particle physicist Klaus Bätzner. But his giddy excitement made up for my limited comprehension. Our group visited CERN’s first particle accelerator, the synchro-



Inside the seven-story Atlas detector

tron, a 1957 creation that resembles “a Rube Goldberg device bathed in the fluorescent lights of a European dance club.” Later, I headed below ground for a private tour of Atlas, one of the Large Hadron Collider’s giant detectors. The collider shoots protons around its subterranean ring at nearly the speed of light. When the subatomic particles collide, they shatter into their constituent parts, which are analyzed by detectors such

as Atlas. Standing on an observation deck, I gaped at the seven-story machine. “The detector was a vast network of mirrors and wires that looked like a blown-up photograph of an insect’s eye.”

More technical wonders awaited at Geneva’s Museum of the History of Science. Housed in a 19th-century villa, the museum is crammed with antique scientific instruments: astrolabes, cathode-ray tubes, oscillators, and 300-year-old microscopes. One object lingered in my mind for weeks afterward—the world’s first battery, built by Alessandro Volta in 1800. I imagined the physicist gazing at this slender tower of copper, zinc, felt, glass, and wood “and reveling in the joy that comes from discovering new things, simply because it’s in our innermost nature to do so.” It’s why I loved being a science tourist. “It was a rejuvenating tonic, one that left me excited about the future.”

Free tours of CERN can be arranged at visit.cern/tours.

Hotel of the week



One isle for guests, one for staff

Gladden Private Island

The Belize Barrier Reef

“In an overconnected world, seclusion has become even more of a benchmark of luxury,” said Mark Ellwood in *Bloomberg.com*. Enter Gladden, a single villa on a mangrove-fringed island a few miles off the southern coast of Belize. Though the two-bedroom villa can accommodate four guests, most bookings come from couples who want a break from the rest of humanity. Guests never have to see another person if they don’t want to: The staff of four stays on a nearby islet, and whenever they venture over, small warning lights flash in every room.

gladdenprivateisland.com; from \$2,950 a night

Getting the flavor of...

The Oregon Trail’s still-living history

“For lovers of American history, a visit to Oregon is a way to follow in the footsteps of the pioneers,” said Terri Colby in the *Chicago Tribune*. This year, the state marks the 175th anniversary of the first organized wagon train, which left Independence, Mo., for the Oregon Territory in May 1843. Some 400,000 pioneers would eventually embark on the 2,170-mile journey, and one in every 10 died along the way. In Baker City, it’s striking just how recent that history seems. Some locals are only a few generations removed from their pioneering forebears, whose rugged spirit remains part of the town’s culture. Outside the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, a kid-friendly museum atop Flagstaff Hill, you can see actual ruts left by the wagon trains. The vista from the hill is the same one those intrepid Americans saw: “A tan-and-green valley covers the foreground, and the majestic forested Blue Mountains dominate the sky.”

An abandoned asylum in West Virginia

As you wander the gloomy corridors of the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in Weston, W.Va., you have to feel grateful that the walls can’t talk, said Jim Barnes in *The Washington Post*. Opened in 1864, the imposing sandstone building was designed as a place where the mentally ill could live with dignity. Instead, it became a hellhole. Patients endured severe overcrowding, and were chained to the walls and subjected to ice baths for “hysteria” and ice-pick lobotomies for other perceived disorders. The facility, closed in 1994, now offers a range of ghost tours, but I took a more respectful heritage tour. Led through the halls by a guide in a nurse’s uniform, we learned that not all patients were mentally ill: Some had epilepsy or brain damage; others were wives whose husbands wanted them out of the way. The asylum has no medical records, but I left wanting to know more about these poor souls, about secrets that will never see the light of day.

Last-minute travel deals

A steamboat cruise

Save up to \$1,600 on a Mississippi River cruise this summer. The American Queen Steamboat Co.’s nine-day voyage departing Minneapolis on Sept. 9 starts at \$2,199 per person, double occupancy. Book by June 30. aqsc.com

Flights to Oz

United Airlines is discounting round-trip business-class flights to Sydney this summer for passengers traveling in twos. Two tickets from Washington Dulles start at \$9,140, down from \$7,611 a person. Book by June 18. united.com

Tree house getaway

The Mohicans Resort in Ohio’s Amish country is offering 25 percent off its regular rates, which start at \$240 a night, for July 2–4 stays. The resort’s four cabins and six tree houses have their own fire pits, and some also have outdoor showers. themohicans.net

This week: Homes built in the 1940s

1 ▶ Wayzata, Minn. Survivors of the *Titanic* disaster built this six-bedroom mansion on Wayzata Bay in 1949. The stucco house has four fireplaces, nine bathrooms, a great room with cathedral ceilings, a wine cellar, a billiards room, and a library. The 1.1-acre property has views of the water through an additional 99-year, 0.75-acre conservation easement. \$2,995,000. Bonnie and Charles Velie, Coldwell Banker Burnet, (612) 964-7865

**2 ◀ Pacific Palisades, Calif.**

Located a block off Sunset Boulevard, this five-bedroom home was built in 1948. The remodeled house has abundant light, high ceilings, skylights, and a master suite featuring a soaking tub and a balcony with views. The walled property includes a cabana, a fire table, a built-in barbecue area, a heated dining porch, a large spa, and a private yoga studio with a sitting area. \$3,850,000. Bruno Abisror and Joseph Cilic, Sotheby's International Realty, (818) 419-1459

3 ▶ Shaker Heights, Ohio Built in 1949, this six-bedroom Georgian revival is close to Cleveland's University Circle, the city's cultural hub. The house includes a great room with a bar, a chef's kitchen with a hearth room, a family room with a pub, and a master suite with a library. The park-like grounds feature gardens, stone terraces, and an in-ground pool with a patio area. \$4,995,000. Adam Kaufman, Howard Hanna, (216) 831-7370





4 ▶ Santa Fe This 1947 double adobe hacienda stands on a 1-acre lot with views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The four-bedroom house has carved wooden doors and vigas throughout, a kitchen with chef's appliances, and oversize windows. Outside are a deck, a brick patio with a fireplace, a covered sitting area, and a water feature. \$1,690,000. Coleen Dearing, Barker Realty/Christie's International Real Estate, (505) 930-9102



5 ◀ Miami Beach, Fla. Built in 1947, this four-bedroom, Spanish Mediterranean-style home underwent an extensive renovation in 2004. Details include an entry courtyard with a fountain, a tile roof, Brazilian cherrywood floors, crown molding, arched windows, mahogany doors, a chef's kitchen with three ovens, and an integrated sound system. Three sets of French doors lead to a lap pool surrounded by tropical trees. \$3,650,000. Ida Schwartz and Stephanie Doppelt, One Sotheby's International Realty, (305) 632-7386



6 ▶ Woodstock, N.Y. This 1940s three-bedroom cottage sits on a landscaped lot with mature trees and a koi pond. The house has a brick fireplace, a beamed ceiling, a knotty-pine wood kitchen, a screened porch, and a ground floor bedroom that opens to the yard through French doors. \$299,000. Lisa Halter, Halter Assocs. Realty, (845) 679-2010



Steal of the week

The 2019 Hyundai Veloster: What the critics say

New York Daily News

Hyundai's popular compact hatch has finally earned a full makeover, and, fortunately, "it is still as weird as ever." Introduced in 2011, the Veloster earned a loyal following among budget-minded hatch enthusiasts who appreciated its driving dynamics and idiosyncratic door layout: one on the driver's side and two on the other. The all-new 2019 retains that quirk, while gaining power, a stiffer chassis, smoother transmission, and enough cargo space to make some small crossovers look impractical by comparison.

Autoweek

There's something for every hatch buyer in

the five-trim lineup, and even the 147-hp base model "feels a full decade ahead of the model it is replacing." The enthusiast's choice is the Turbo R-Spec—at least until the Veloster N and its 275 horses arrive later this year. The \$22,900 R-Spec, which has the turbocharged 201-hp, 1.6-liter engine and a six-speed manual gearbox, is "a serious competitor to sporty cars \$10,000 or even \$15,000 north of the price of this version."

Car & Driver

Enthusiasts might like it even better if its tail slid more on tight turns, but the new Veloster is "notably more athletic than before," with "sublime" chassis response and a



A do-everything hatch, from \$18,500

new suspension that "irons out even brutal bumps." Stylish, practical, and satisfying to drive, the Veloster is also "a blaring deal" among sweet-driving hatchbacks.

The best of... window-mounted air conditioners



LG LW8016ER

You can pay for a quieter unit, but this 8,000-BTU air conditioner is the best in its class. Efficient and "quietish," it emits a pleasant low hum, directs air well, and cools up to 340 square feet. It also has a fresh-air vent and removable drain plug. \$239, homedepot.com
Source: TheWirecutter.com



Haier ESAQ406PT-H

This excellent 6,000-BTU AC produces a mere 43.4 decibels—11.5 quieter than the average unit of the same size—because a buffer around the compressor muffles vibrations. Perfect for a bedroom, it cools up to 250 square feet. \$350, amazon.com
Source: PopularMechanics.com



GE Energy Star AEC08LX

Like the other units in GE's new line of smart air conditioners, this 8,000-BTU box pairs with Google Assistant, Amazon Alexa, or Apple HomeKit. You can adjust the temperature and turn it on or off using an app or vocal commands. \$229, homedepot.com
Source: TheVerge.com



Frigidaire Cool Connect FGRC1044T1

Window-mounted air conditioners are usually ugly things, but not the 10,000-BTU Cool Connect. This sleek and efficient AC can also be controlled remotely via a smartphone and cools up to 450 square feet. \$399, homedepot.com
Source: PopularMechanics.com



HomeLabs Window AC

If you're on a budget and you're looking for something simple, consider this top-rated Amazon pick. The 5,000-BTU unit cools just 150 square feet, but it's all you'll need to change the whole atmosphere in a small, hot room. \$134, amazon.com
Source: Esquire.com

Tip of the week...

How to save money at the gas pump

■ **Check options online.** With fuel prices at a multiyear peak, it's time to get to know the various apps that map area gas stations and current pump prices. GasBuddy, Fuel Finder, Gas Guru, and AAA all can point you to the lowest price around, which can be valuable at a time when the price increases are costing drivers \$100 to \$200 more a year.

■ **Plan ahead.** Gasoline taxes differ significantly from state to state, so if your road trip crosses a state line, plan accordingly. A driver leaving Ohio and entering Pennsylvania, for example, would have to pay 36 cents per gallon more to refuel after crossing the border. You should also try to avoid stations on major highways, because they tend to charge more.

■ **Pay cash.** Some stations charge less if you pay with cash instead of a credit card. Usually, the difference is 10 to 15 cents a gallon, but it can be as much as a dollar.

Source: Consumer Reports

And for those who have everything...

Who says the U.S. Postal Service can't innovate? On June 20, the service is rolling out its first-ever scratch-and-sniff postage stamps. Perfect for birthday cards or summer party invitations,

Frozen Treats First-Class Forever Stamps depict a variety of colorful popsicles painted in watercolor by illustrator Margaret Berg. Start scratching and you'll smell kiwi, watermelon, strawberry, root beer, and many other flavors. The series arrives a year after the postal service released Total Eclipse of the Sun, a series of stamps whose thermochromic ink reacts to the heat of your touch. At this rate, snail mail might just make a comeback. \$10 for 20, store.usps.com

Source: IfItsHipItsHere.com



Best apps...

For safeguarding internet privacy

■ **Privacy Badger** is a browser extension that blocks or limits the tracking technologies that marketers use to view your search history for products you've shown interest in, which allows them to advertise those products on sites such as Facebook and Twitter. The free extension works with Chrome, Firefox, and Opera.

■ **Ghostery** works similarly, but it allows more control over what gets blocked. The multiplatform browser extension can also shut down video players, comment sections, and many other website annoyances.

■ **Facebook Container** prevents Facebook from following your movements around other websites. The extension only works with Firefox, and it might disable Facebook peripherals that you might like, such as having your profile embedded in comment sections on other websites. That's a small price to pay, though, for the privacy protection.

Source: PopSci.com

The news at a glance

The bottom line

■ The share of U.S. homeowners who are underwater on their mortgages dipped below 10 percent last year for the first time since the housing crash, according to Zillow. Just 4.5 million homeowners, or 9.1 percent of the total, owed more on their mortgages than their houses were worth, down from 15.7 million, or 31.4 percent, in early 2012.
USA Today

■ Of the 87 U.S. startups worth at least \$1 billion in 2016, more than half were founded or co-founded by immigrants. The most-represented country of origin was India, which produced 14 of the entrepreneurs, followed by Canada and the United Kingdom, which each produced eight.
Axios.com



■ The Nasdaq hit two consecutive record highs this week, topping the previous all-time

high set on March 12. The gains, which also saw the individual stocks of Netflix, Apple, Amazon, and Facebook hit their own all-time highs, marked a dramatic turnaround from this spring, when investors fled technology stocks amid fears of increased regulatory scrutiny of the sector.
The Wall Street Journal

■ Medicare's trust fund will become insolvent in 2026, three years earlier than expected. Social Security's trust fund will be depleted in 2034. This year, Social Security's costs will exceed its income for the first time since 1982.
Associated Press

■ Microsoft has replaced Google's parent company Alphabet as the world's third most valuable company, behind Apple and Amazon. Microsoft is now valued at \$753 billion, while Alphabet is valued at \$739 billion.
TheVerge.com

Tech: Facebook under fire again on privacy

Facebook was back on the defensive this week, after reports that it provided users' data to at least 60 phone companies globally, including Huawei, a telecom giant "with alleged ties to the Chinese government," said **Tony Romm** in *The Washington Post*. The data-sharing agreements, which date to 2007, were part of an effort by Facebook to attract more mobile users. The company gave phone manufacturers direct access to Facebook data so that devices could incorporate the "Like" button and other popular Facebook features, and "so that customers could more seamlessly perform tasks such as syncing their contacts." Some partners—the list included Apple, HTC, and Samsung—could access



Accessed Facebook data

users' work history, relationship status, and political leanings, as well as the data of users' friends.

"Certainly, it looks bad for Facebook to have made and kept these agreements," said **Alexis Madrigal** in *The Atlantic.com*. Although there is so far no evidence of data misuse, Huawei has been flagged by U.S. intel-

ligence as a national security threat. And it is troubling that Facebook did not initially acknowledge that Chinese firms were part of the data-sharing agreements. "Their reticence adds to the sense expressed by congressional leaders (and just about everyone else) that maybe Facebook is not always completely forthcoming about its problems."

Execs: Schultz ends four-decade run at Starbucks

Starbucks executive chairman Howard Schultz announced this week he is stepping down at the end of June, said **Zlati Meyer** in *USA Today*. Schultz joined the Seattle-based coffee chain in 1982, when it had just four stores, and as CEO beginning in 1986 "shepherded it into a global heavyweight," with more than 28,000 outposts in 77 countries. The 64-year-old, who handed off his CEO duties to Kevin Johnson in April last year, plans to write a book on Starbucks' "social impact work" and consider whether to pursue a rumored run for elected office.

Media: British regulators approve Fox's Sky deal

After 16 months of deliberation, U.K. regulators said this week that 21st Century Fox can proceed with its bid for control of the British satellite-broadcasting giant Sky, said **Michael de la Merced** in *The New York Times*. The approval of the deal, which is predicated on Fox selling Sky News, the broadcaster's 24-hour news channel, is likely "a prelude to a bidding war over Sky—and to a larger fight." Disney is trying to purchase Fox, "which already owns part of Sky and has offered to buy the rest." But Comcast is attempting to play spoiler, bidding for both Fox and Sky, "all with the goal of causing trouble for Disney."

Tech: Microsoft buys code site GitHub

Microsoft this week acquired the code-hosting site GitHub in an all-stock deal for \$7.5 billion, said **Tom Warren** in *TheVerge.com*. The sale is the second significant acquisition of Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's tenure, following the company's \$26.2 billion purchase of LinkedIn two years ago. GitHub, "a large code repository that has become popular with developers and companies hosting entire projects, documentation, and code," was valued at \$2 billion as recently as 2015. Used by Apple, Amazon, and Google, "its popularity among developers could see Microsoft earn some much-needed trust and respect from developers."

Retail: Lord & Taylor landmark to permanently close

"Looking for another sign of how tough it is in the world of retail?" asked **Paul La Monica** in *CNN.com*. Fashion conglomerate Hudson's Bay is shuttering Lord & Taylor's century-old Manhattan flagship early next year, along with 10 other Lord & Taylor stores. Although WeWork purchased the landmark site last year, Hudson's Bay held an option to lease several floors for Lord & Taylor, but will now decline. The company this week also offloaded the "once hot" website chain Gilt Groupe—owner of Gilt.com—which it purchased for \$250 million in 2016. It had already written down the acquisition by \$116 million.

'1918 views' on female corporate directors

A British survey investigating the lack of women on U.K. corporate boards received a few cringeworthy excuses from some of the country's top executives, said **Amie Tsang** in *The New York Times*. "All the 'good' women have already been snapped up" was one tone-deaf response, as were "We have one woman already on the board, so we are done" and "Most women don't want the hassle or pressure." Overall, about a quarter of the board members at Britain's 350 biggest public companies are women. There has been some progress: The number of all-male boards among firms in the FTSE-350 stock index has fallen to just 10 companies last year from 152 in 2011. Still, the survey responses "illustrate that much remains to be done." Reading the executives' excuses, "you might think it's 1918, not 2018," **Amanda Mackenzie**, chief executive of the charity Business in the Community, said. "It reads like a script from comedy parody."

Personal finance: Are you ready for retirement?

Everyone knows deciding when to retire “is about more than having enough money,” said Michelle Singletary in *The Washington Post*. There are all sorts of considerations, including your physical health, your future plans for travel or hobbies, and the “mental upheaval” of having so much downtime after decades of work. But you also can’t discount the money factor: Unless you’re “financially ready” to stop working and have developed “a clear monthly financial plan,” experts say, you’re unlikely to be successful. Those without a plan often quickly have to seek a job “to make ends meet.” That’s particularly problematic if you’re physically unable to work or can’t find a decent job, said Robert Powell in *USA Today*. Only half of seniors who say they want to continue working are able to, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute. The rest exit the workforce ahead of schedule because of a job loss, disability, or health care–related issues.

How do you know if you’re financially ready to retire? asked Erik Carter in *Forbes.com*. Begin by calculating how much income you require to meet your basic needs. Rather than “guestimating” expenses, track the actual amounts over a few months. “Make any adjustments you foresee to your lifestyle (like downsizing or relocating) to create a retirement budget.” AARP’s website has a helpful calculator for estimating health-



The ultimate goal: A nest egg to match your dreams

care costs. Next, visit the Social Security Administration’s website to run a projection on what you’ll receive, and consider whether you’ll have any other income, such as pensions or money from a rental home. Finally, total your retirement and investment accounts and multiply by 4 percent to determine how much you can safely withdraw each year. Don’t forget to consult an online calculator to figure out your state’s tax liabilities. It’s health care that remains the wild card in any budget, said Alessandra Malito in *MarketWatch.com*. The average couple retiring in 2018 can expect to fork out more than \$280,000 on health care as retirees. “That figure will continue to rise, too.”

If you aren’t ready to retire yet, making even some small adjustments can “make a big difference later,” said Rachel Hartman in *USNews.com*. Try to maximize your 401(k) contributions, and make sure you are taking advantage of a company’s matching policy. If you’re over 50, you can contribute up to \$24,500 this calendar year. Work quickly to eliminate debt, too. “Making payments on a car loan or credit card debt can use up valuable dollars that could otherwise be invested toward the future.” Perhaps most importantly, “set lifestyle goals” for your retirement. Which city do you see yourself residing in? What trips and hobbies will you pursue? Figure out “what you want your retirement to look like,” and start making it happen.

What the experts say

Taxes and working from home

If you “live in one state but work remotely for an employer based in another,” it could mean a bigger tax bill, said Jeanne Sahadi in *CNN.com*. Workers risk being double taxed if they live in one state but work for a company based in one of five states—New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska—that apply a so-called convenience vs. necessity test to remote workers. If it’s determined “that working from home is a matter of convenience for you rather than a necessity for your employer,” you could be taxed on income both in the state where you live and in the state where your company is based. The good news: Many states give you a tax credit for any taxes you pay to another jurisdiction.

Important tips for landlords

“Owning rental property is not as simple as handing over the keys to a tenant and sitting back as the money flows in,” said Russ Wiles in *The Arizona Republic*. Yes, rental properties can be lucrative: The average annual return on single-family rentals is 9 percent, according to a UCLA study. But be prepared to keep investing. “Properties don’t always pay for themselves,” and you’ll need some “financial flexibility” to cover maintenance and repairs.

Mortgage expenses are often higher on rentals than on owner-occupied homes, so try to purchase a home with at least three bedrooms. Those are often easier to lease than smaller homes. Carefully screen prospective tenants with the help of online tools or a property manager, paying careful attention to their past rental history. Familiarize yourself also with your state’s legal obligations for landlords.

The cost of long-term care insurance

The long-term care insurance industry is stumbling under “sky-high premium increases,” forcing many seniors to “make some unpleasant choices,” said Walecia Konrad in *CBSNews.com*. Today, just a dozen companies offer coverage, down from about 1,000 in 2002, and many policyholders have seen their premiums double in the past two years. What happened? Insurers “underestimated the amount they would pay in claims for runaway nursing-home costs and, because of longer life spans, the length of time they would have to pay them.” Given how fast premiums are climbing, policyholders should reassess their coverage selections and reconsider them if their needs have changed. Another option might be hybrid care policies, which can be paired with permanent life insurance policies.

Charity of the week

GLOBAL LINKS
Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

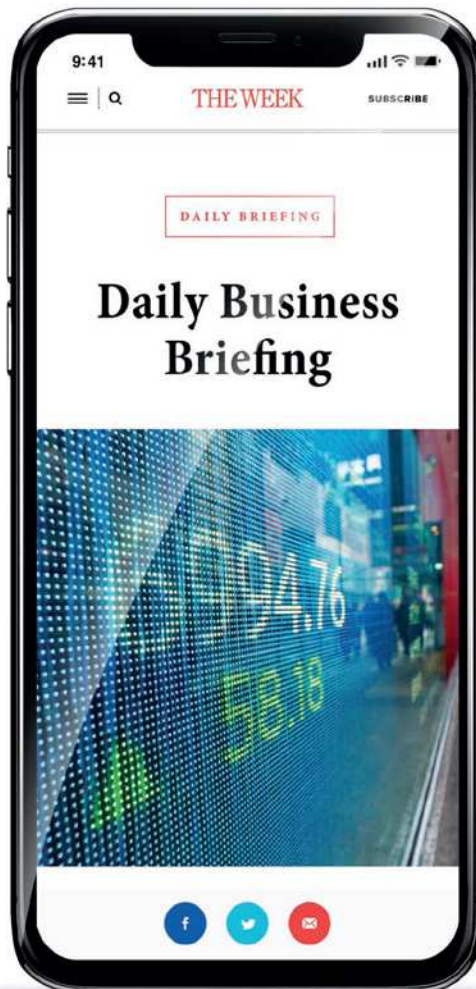
Global Links (globallinks.org) is an international medical relief and development organization dedicated to improving health worldwide and reducing medical waste in the U.S. Since 1989, Global Links has worked in partnership with U.S. medical institutions to direct still-useful medical and surgical materials—including nebulizers, wheelchairs, walkers, and scrubs—away from landfills and into resource-poor countries. In the U.S., Global Links works to improve maternal and infant health in poorer communities, delivering hygiene products and newborn clothing, formula, and blankets to women’s shelters and nurseries. Recent projects include delivering medical supplies to Cuba following Hurricane Irma, and increasing access to health care in Bolivia and Honduras.

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.

THE WEEK

Daily Business Briefing

ALL THE BUSINESS NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW
DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX.



SIGN UP NOW: [TheWeek.com/businessbriefing](https://www.theweek.com/businessbriefing)

Economy: The best jobs market in years

Unemployment in the U.S. right now “is about as low as it gets,” said **Mark Whitehouse** in *Bloomberg.com*. Propelled by a record 92 consecutive months of job growth, the U.S. unemployment rate sank to 3.8 percent in May, its lowest level since April 2000; the last time the rate was lower was in 1969. Sectors across the economy contributed to the 223,000 added jobs last month, from manufacturing to health care to retail. The unemployment rate for college graduates fell to just 2 percent, and to only 3.9 percent for those with a high school diploma. Joblessness among African-Americans tumbled from 6.6 percent to a record-low 5.9 percent. And for the first time ever, the number of job openings now exceeds the number of unemployed Americans. The only question from this month’s report is “whether there are enough synonyms for ‘good,’” said **Neil Irwin** in *NYTimes.com*. Even persistently lackluster wage growth may finally be rebounding: Average earnings are up 2.7 percent year over year, slightly faster than inflation. Clearly, “the economy is in a sweet spot.”

“President Trump’s tax-reform and deregulation agenda appears to be working,” said *The Wall Street Journal* in an editorial. Employers are adding jobs and raising wages, and that’s encouraging “workers who are often on the edges of the economy” to come off the sidelines. Notably, the number of people who have been jobless for 27 weeks or more has fallen by 476,000 over the past year. We just hope that a trade war doesn’t blow this impressive progress. It’s natural for President Trump to want to claim responsibility for the “roaring” economy, said **Robert Samuelson**



More job openings than unemployed Americans

in *The Washington Post*. “When the economy does well, presidents of both parties routinely brag about the results.” But the true impact of his tax cuts, regulation rollbacks, and tariffs “won’t be clear for years.” What’s really “powering the economy is the economy.” Its forward march is less the product of any partisan policy than it is the steady growth of purchasing power and the restoration of consumer confidence.

“Before you get too excited, some perspective,” said **Paul Davidson** in *USA Today*. The labor force participation rate—the percentage of Americans working or who have actively looked for work in the past month—is 62.7 percent. In 2000, the last time unemployment was this low, the participation rate was 67 percent. Our next challenge, then, is to reintegrate the many Americans ages 25 to 54 who remain outside the workforce, particularly because of the opioid crisis. The economy of 2000 was also completely different. Back then, GDP grew at a robust 4.1 percent and the federal budget was in surplus. In comparison, the U.S. economy grew 2.3 percent in 2017 and our budget deficit is likely to hit \$1 trillion next year. That’s why if you suggested to most Americans that the economy’s as healthy as it was back in 2000, “they’d probably laugh in your face,” said **Jeff Spross** in *TheWeek.com*. Inequality is worse, wage growth is slower, and more people are working as independent contractors, giving employers “more leverage to drive down pay and cut benefits.” The headline numbers look great right now, but compared with 18 years ago, “3.8 percent unemployment just ain’t what it used to be.”

Walmart schools its workers

Adam Harris
The Atlantic

Walmart is trying to “change the narrative about how it treats its employees,” said Adam Harris. The retail behemoth announced last week that it will pick up the tab for its 1.4 million employees to earn either associate’s or bachelor’s degrees in business or supply-chain management at three selected universities. Workers will have to pay the equivalent of \$1 per day “as a sort of co-pay,” but they won’t be required to stay with the company once they graduate. Subsidizing employee education isn’t groundbreaking—Starbucks, JetBlue, UPS, and Cigna all have programs—but it is “good PR,” especially since Walmart has long been criticized for its “low wages, lack of room for career

growth, and stingy benefits.” It also signals just how desperate Walmart is to keep its staff. The retailer has for years suffered from an “abysmal retention rate,” and with the economy improving, it’s becoming harder to attract and keep employees. The retailer has already this year boosted base pay to \$11 per hour and expanded paid maternity leave from six to 10 weeks. It also knows that “helping employees go to college pays off;” Cigna’s program, which helped 2,200 workers from 2012 to 2014, lowered turnover by 8 percent and provided a 129 percent return on investment. And beyond the boost to Walmart, “a lot of employees stand to benefit.”

Don’t mourn the Volcker Rule

Felix Salmon
Slate.com

Consumer advocates are outraged that bank regulators are watering down the Volcker Rule, said Felix Salmon. A cornerstone of the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial reform bill, the rule was meant to “force banks to rein in their risk-taking” by preventing them from making unsafe bets with depositors’ money. The big banks, of course, “didn’t like this” and have spent millions of dollars lobbying for changes. Last month, they notched a “significant victory,” persuading the Federal Reserve to water down some key requirements. Normally, this would be cause for concern, but if critics look closely, they’ll see that the rule’s new version has “much more potential upside, for those of

us who want more bank regulation, than the existing version.” Under the current Volcker Rule, banks have to offer proof that each specific trade is more than a speculative bet—that it either meets customer demands or acts as a hedge against risk. This case-by-case justification is not only “hard for the banks,” it’s also “incredibly cumbersome for regulators.” Under the revamped rule, firms will have to engage in less risky trading on “a bank-wide scale,” making regulation easier. Bank CEOs will also be “personally accountable for any lapses,” so it will be harder to blame “rogue” traders. “Even if the banks are getting what they want,” it isn’t “necessarily a step backward.”

The restaurateur who became a New Orleans icon

Ella Brennan
1925–2018

Ella Brennan made every meal a celebration. The matriarch of a family of New



Orleans restaurateurs, Brennan spent half a century running the clan's flagship, Commander's Palace, which is famed for serving a mix of nouvelle, Creole, and Cajun cuisines with a theatrical flourish. At Commander's, balloons decorate tables, diners wear chef's hats, and local musicians parade from table to table. "I don't want a restaurant where a jazz band can't come marching through," Brennan said. The food was no afterthought, and although Brennan didn't cook, she groomed chefs who'd become stars, and obsessively refined the menu, adding acclaimed dishes, including "turtle soup au sherry" and bananas Foster. Brennan could be tough—her nickname was Hurricane Ella—but she was as devoted to the staff as she was demanding. "What I do is teach," she said. "I've been doing it forever."

Brennan was born in New Orleans to a shipyard superintendent father and a homemaker mother who was an "inventive cook," said the New Orleans *Times-Picayune*. After graduating from high school, she began overseeing operations at the family's new Bourbon Street restaurant, Vieux Carré. The menu was dull—trout meunière,

chicken, and veal—and following her repeated complaints, her eldest brother, Owen, declared, "You think you're so smart? Go fix it, smarty pants." Brennan added Creole staples and taught the servers—and herself—about wine. The restaurant prospered. But as they prepared to move into a larger space in 1955, Owen died of a heart attack. A "family feud"

developed with his widow, said *The New York Times*, and Brennan was eventually ousted from the restaurant. She refused to return for 40 years.

In 1969, Brennan and a sister, Adelaide, "bought a run-down eatery called Commander's Palace," said *The Washington Post*. With a focus on local ingredients and an amazing streak of chefs—Paul Prudhomme, Emeril Lagasse, Jamie Shannon—the restaurant went on to win six James Beard Awards, "the Oscars of the food world." When Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, Commander's suffered considerable damage. Repairs took 13 months and \$6.5 million to complete, and when the restaurant reopened in 2006, Brennan and her co-owners were greeted with cheers in the packed dining room. "We never even paused to consider not coming back," she said. "Hell no. New Orleans is our town, and she needed us as much as we needed her."

The engineer who accidentally invented rock's 'fuzz tone'

Audio engineer Glenn Snoddy was recording a Nashville session with country singer Marty Robbins in 1961 when something went

Glenn Snoddy
1922–2018

very wrong. Ninety seconds into a song, the bass guitar began

producing a fuzzy, abrasive sound instead of a clean tone—the result of a blown transformer in the mixing console. Snoddy wanted a re-record, but the musicians loved the distortion, which became an in-demand effect. When the console finally died, Snoddy took apart its faulty transformer and built a foot-operated pedal to duplicate the sound. Gibson bought the rights to what became the Maestro Fuzz-Tone, and its distinctive buzz went mainstream when Keith Richards used the pedal on the Rolling Stones' 1965 hit "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." "When Keith Richards picked it up," Snoddy said, "music history was changed forever."

Born in Shelbyville, Tenn., Snoddy "became an engineer after serving as an Army radio technician in the Pacific during World War II," said *The Washington Post*. He moved to Nashville in the late 1940s and engineered Grand Ole Opry shows for radio and TV. Snoddy later became chief engineer at the Quonset Hut studio, where he mixed Johnny Cash's 1963 hit "Ring of Fire" and hired an aspiring songwriter named Kris Kristofferson—as janitor.

In 1967, Snoddy opened Woodland Sound studio in East Nashville, said *The New York Times*. It became "one of the city's premier recording studios," producing hits including the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's Grammy-winning album *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* (1979). But he remained most famous for the fuzz tone. "It was such a wild and unrestrained sound," said Peter Cooper of the Country Music Hall of Fame, "created by this quiet, gentle, and scholarly fellow."

The Democratic operative who punked Nixon

Dick Tuck
1924–2018

Dick Tuck bedeviled Republican candidates for decades with his bag of campaign trail



tricks. The Democratic operative duped Republican bands into playing Democratic campaign songs, posed as a fire marshal to give reporters bogus crowd numbers, and once snuck secret messages into the fortune cookies at a GOP banquet. He relished tormenting Richard Nixon. The day after Nixon's 1960 presidential debate against John F. Kennedy, the Republican was approached by an elderly woman wearing one of his campaign buttons. "Don't worry, son," she said, hugging Nixon in front of TV news crews, "you'll do better next time." It was Tuck who put her up to it. "I've made a lot of candidates look foolish," he said, "usually with a lot of help from the candidates themselves."

Born in Hayden, Ariz., Tuck "was one of four sons of a copper company executive," said *The Washington Post*. He joined the U.S. Marines during World War II, serving in a bomb disposal unit in the South Pacific. "He began hoodwinking Nixon as a student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1950," said *The New York Times*. Tuck was secretly working

for the Republican's opponent in a California Senate race when one of his professors unwittingly asked him to work as an advance man for Nixon's upcoming visit to campus. Tuck rented a 2,000-seat auditorium, but didn't publicize the event. Only 23 people showed up, and Tuck introduced Nixon by claiming the candidate would speak about a subject "all Californians care about, the International Monetary Fund." "Dick Tuck," said a furious Nixon, "you've done your last advance."

"One of Tuck's most effective stunts" came during Nixon's 1962 campaign for California governor, said *Reuters.com*. At a rally in San Francisco's Chinatown, a Tuck infiltrator waved a sign reading "What about the Hughes loan?" in Mandarin—a reference to a questionable \$205,000 loan that Nixon's brother had received from billionaire Howard Hughes. When the sign was translated for Nixon, the enraged candidate grabbed it and tore it up in full view of the cameras. Tuck himself only ran for office once—a doomed campaign for a California state Senate seat in which he won only 10 percent of the primary vote. "The people have spoken," Tuck said in his concession speech. "The bastards."

AP/CI

When the ground melts

Climate change is destroying the permafrost beneath villages and towns across the Arctic, said Melody Schreiber. As roads buckle and buildings' foundations crack, residents are scrambling to adjust to a warmer world.

IN RUSSIA, BUILDINGS are sagging and crumbling. In Greenland, a wildfire broke out last year. And in Alaska, entire villages may be relocated because the land upon which they're built is no longer trustworthy.

All across the North, the very ground is changing, and the buildings and roads built upon the thawing permafrost are shifting and cracking.

In Iqaluit, the capital of the Canadian territory Nunavut, a good home is hard to find. An efficiency apartment runs around \$2,000 a month, while a two-bedroom house will cost about \$3,500. These New York prices are shocking in a small, remote town of about 7,500 people. And there still aren't enough homes for everyone.

Iqaluit expanded rapidly when Nunavut became an official Canadian territory in 1999. Canada's largest territory is home to many Inuit communities; about 90 percent of the province's residents are indigenous. The government is a major employer in Iqaluit, alongside more traditional activities like fishing, hunting, and carving. Iqaluit's new status as a capital brought a surge of new public-sector workers—along with an accompanying rise in construction of government buildings and houses.

Many residents have their housing subsidized either by their employer or by the government, if they are low-income. So prices are unlikely to come down.

At the same time, Iqaluit—like its circumpolar neighbors—faces a housing crisis of a different sort. The houses are sinking into the warming earth.

The only men's homeless shelter in Iqaluit is perpetually overcrowded. Men share rooms with several bunk beds pressed close together.

When I met him in late 2016, Charlie Papatsie had been living at the shelter for about two years. He had lost his last home when he was fired from his job, which had provided housing. He was fired, Papatsie



In Iqaluit, in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, homes are sinking into the warming earth.

said, because of a drinking problem. After that, he found himself on the icy streets of Iqaluit.

Papatsie was trying to pull his life together. He was working at a construction company as a warehouse manager and still trying to get government-assisted housing.

"I'm on the list," he said. But he had no idea when he might have his own home again. "I've been on the list going on five years now," he added, shaking his head.

Housing in Iqaluit has been tough to find for years. And climate change is making everything more complicated, destabilizing the housing market across the Arctic.

"Housing, as you've probably seen, is extremely expensive out here. People can barely afford a home," said Colleen Healey, the climate change program manager for the government of Nunavut. "It's even worse if your home has a half-life now—because the permafrost under your house is thawing."

Temperatures in the Arctic continue to soar at double the rate for the rest of the world. At the same time, precipitation patterns are also changing all over the planet; in the Arctic, that means more erratic snowfall. These changes are affecting the very basis of the Arctic: the land.

It's difficult to build new houses on thawing permafrost, and many existing houses have huge cracks in the foundation. It is

also extremely expensive to ship materials in the Arctic, so the houses that are repaired and built must be planned very carefully.

"In my lifetime, it's a totally different Arctic," Healey said. "It's a totally different Nunavut."

PERMAFROST IS any stretch of ground—including soil and bedrock—that remains frozen for two years or more. The top layer, the "active layer," freezes and thaws with the seasons, but the

layer beneath stays at 0 degrees Celsius for multiple years.

Or it's supposed to, anyway. As temperatures soar and snow blankets the earth in new weather patterns, even permafrost that's been around for thousands of years is beginning to give way. The landscape of the Arctic is changing more than it has since the end of the last Ice Age.

Permafrost reflects everything that's happening on top, explained Dmitry Streletskiy, an assistant professor of geography at George Washington University: "Warmer temperatures will result in permafrost thaw."

Permafrost thaw is not a new problem; urban planners, architects, and builders have taken its volatility into account for decades in the Arctic. But climate change exacerbates existing permafrost issues—and it does so rapidly.

The main problem has to do with soil moisture. When water freezes, it expands, so the ground rises; conversely, when it thaws and the soil contracts, the ground sinks. Permafrost in many places across the Arctic is now locked in a pattern of thawing and refreezing each new season, where once it remained steady. The ground rises and sinks with each change in the weather.

Across the Arctic, roads and buildings buckle along with the ground. Russia is home to some of the largest cities in the Arctic, which are undergoing profound

changes because of permafrost thaw. In the coal-mining town of Vorkuta, about 40 percent of buildings have become deformed from changes in the ground. In Norilsk, the largest city built on permafrost, about 60 percent of buildings have been damaged by permafrost thaw, and 10 percent of the houses in the city have been abandoned. Most of the changes happen gradually, but they can render buildings dangerous once they begin; a few years ago in Norilsk, a cement slab broke a doctor's legs when a building shifted and crumbled.

Other circumpolar regions face infrastructure challenges from the warming earth. In Greenland, wildfires have swept over previously icy tundra, coming dangerously close to towns and research stations. In some places here, finding and storing water can be a problem; water kept in tanks must be thawed to use, and the heated tanks then heat the permafrost.

In Alaska, many towns are running out of places to bury their dead; erstwhile cemeteries have become marshy swamps. And some towns are running out of solid ground entirely. Newtok recently received federal funding to begin relocating the entire town to safer ground. Other towns like Shishmaref and Kivalina may also move in the next few years—or risk disappearing entirely.

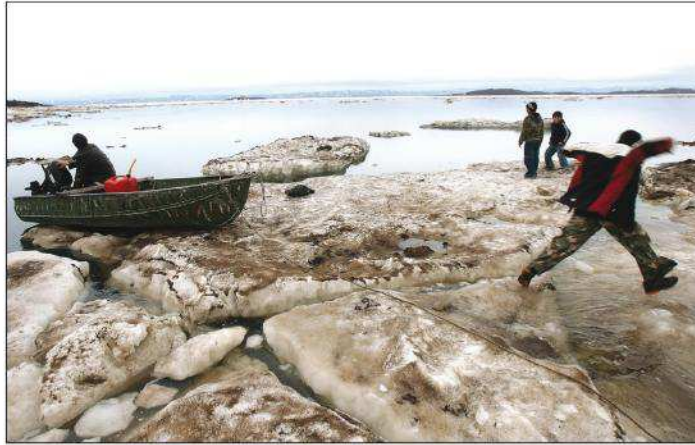
BUT THERE ARE some relatively simple techniques that officials and urban planners in the Arctic can implement. Removing accumulated snow from the ground is one easy way to keep the permafrost intact. There's a reason snow is called a blanket—it actually insulates the earth, keeping it warmer than the outside air. When it's removed, the ground is exposed to cooler temperatures.

In spring, when that snow begins to melt, preventing it from seeping into the ground is another important part of protecting permafrost. "Water is warm," Streletskiy noted. "It's not frozen—so it affects permafrost as well."

Houses built directly on the ground can also thaw the soil with their escaped heat, so most homes in the Arctic are balanced on wooden or metal pilings driven deep into the permafrost. Other houses rest on screwjacks, adjustable bases that can be cranked up or down as the earth shifts. These stilts also allow air to move over the ground, keeping it cool.

Although pilings and screwjacks are now used extensively in the Arctic, the additional materials and effort to dig into the permafrost makes construction costs even higher.

"The Arctic foundations are considerably more expensive in permafrost areas," said Streletskiy. "For example, for large residen-



Officials in Iqaluit are changing development plans based on the thawing.

tial apartment buildings in Russia, the cost of the foundation can be as high as 30 percent of the structure."

And since pilings and screwjacks both rest on permafrost, they're imperfect solutions; thawing ground can disrupt even the best foundations.

One hospital in Alaska went to extremes to make sure the ground would stay solid. The Yukon-Kuskokwim health facility in Bethel refrigerates the ground with temperature-controlled probes installed in the ground.

But this, Streletskiy said, "is not really a sustainable solution" for most Arctic infrastructure. It's expensive, and it likely wouldn't be worth it for most buildings and roads in the Arctic.

Instead, a technology called thermosyphon is gaining in popularity. Thermosyphons are narrow tubes that passively pull heat from the ground and ventilate it up into the air—keeping the heat away from the permafrost. They are rather straightforward to install and relatively inexpensive, compared with the alternatives.

"With every problem, first you have to know that there is a problem," as Streletskiy put it. In the case of permafrost thaw, the first step should be monitoring the ground temperature. This, Streletskiy pointed out, is much cheaper than losing an entire building. Yet many Arctic cities have not yet implemented monitoring, which could lead to expensive long-term prob-

lems. Once the damage becomes visible, it's often too late.

In Nunavut, there are more than 100 boreholes that have measured ground temperatures since 2000. In Iqaluit, Charlie Papatsie's hometown, officials are taking even bigger steps to monitor the ground—from the air.

"We've been developing permafrost hazard maps for Nunavut," said Colleen Healey. The government of Nunavut is working with the Canadian Space Agency to detect changes and shifts in the ground via satellites.

"We can actually see movement within 3 millimeters," Healey said. Once these changes are corroborated by on-the-ground researchers, they develop maps to help planners decide where to build next—and which houses to monitor for potential problems. If homes need to

be retrofitted, either the government or the homeowner pays for the work, depending on who owns it. It's pretty much impossible to get insurance or sell a house once permafrost damage starts to show.

Holding up a map of Iqaluit, Healey said, "The blue areas are the most ice-rich. Those are the highest-risk areas. When those big chunks of ice thaw, you can get buildings tilting and changing." Then she pointed to a strip of brown—bedrock. "That's the solid rock. That's not moving anywhere."

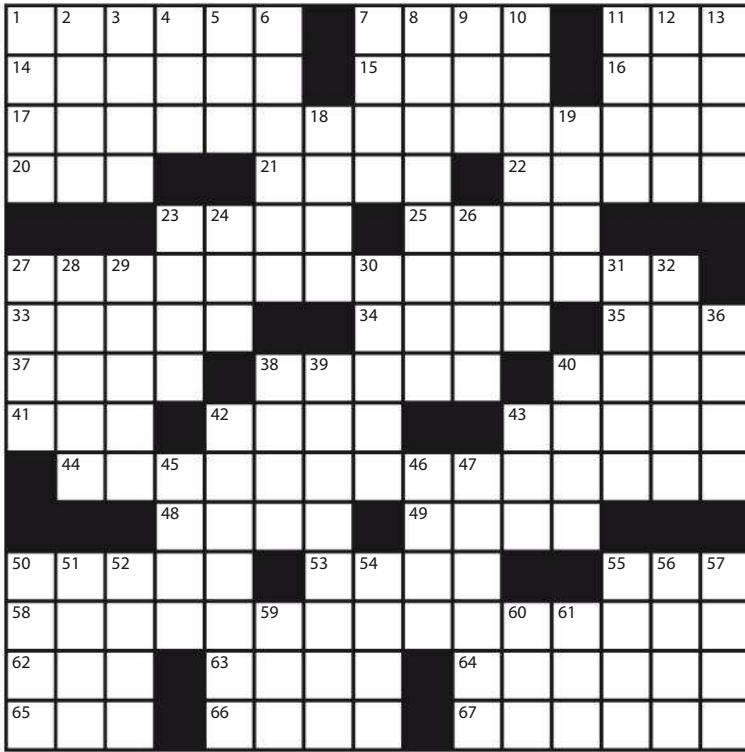
With her index finger, Healey circled a spot on the map. "The city was actually planning on making this whole blue zone the new [development] area," she said. The idea was to build houses and government buildings there. "And when we did this map, they were like, 'OK, let's not do that. Let's develop over here on the brown area.'"

Building only on bedrock can create disjointed, sprawling cities, and in larger cities it may introduce transportation problems. But it's one reliable way to know the ground isn't going to give way under your feet.

"Iqaluit's growing," Healey said. "How can I make sure that the Iqaluit of 40, 50, 100 years from now is better?"

Excerpted from an article that originally appeared in CityLab.com, part of the Atlantic Monthly Group. Reprinted with permission.

Crossword No. 460: The Sound of the Waves by Matt Gaffney



ACROSS

- 1 Clothing company named for a kind of squirrel
- 7 Cilantro-rich cuisine
- 11 Roll, as of cash
- 14 Role for Julia
- 15 Scarlet ___ (brilliantly colored bird)
- 16 Porter's cousin
- 17 Job advancement at Aveeno or Curel?
- 20 "Didn't I tell you this would happen?"
- 21 Frost's "Fire and Ice," e.g.
- 22 Like some goals
- 23 Begin one's turn, in many board games
- 25 Actor Epps
- 27 The focus that makes Hermione Granger such a good wizard?
- 33 Like krypton
- 34 "I'll ___ my time" (Mr. Burns line on *The Simpsons*)
- 35 Work hard in the yard, maybe
- 37 Second-largest lake in Scotland
- 38 Total jerks
- 40 Journey
- 41 Guy's counterpart
- 42 "Woe ___!"
- 43 Like the worst fog to drive in
- 44 Intense feelings from a guy in Vientiane?
- 48 Baryshnikov was born in it
- 49 Puts in, as hours or miles

- 50 Novelist Walker
- 53 Chicago Cubs president Epstein
- 55 One of 165 for Manny Ramirez in 1999
- 58 Big to-do in a Biblical land?
- 62 H, in Athens
- 63 Sunday brunch, say
- 64 It's found beneath Washington
- 65 Farm home
- 66 Lingeringly upset
- 67 ___ 8 (heist comedy out on June 8, and suggested by this puzzle's four theme entries)

DOWN

- 1 Fictional Phoenix diner
- 2 Succulent with many uses
- 3 Give three stars out of four, say
- 4 The year 1002
- 5 Singer whose surname sounds like an exclamation of worry
- 6 Half of an infamous bowling split
- 7 Lose steam
- 8 2013's *Behind the Candelabra*, e.g.
- 9 Ultimate goal
- 10 Cordon off
- 11 Many a Dickens character
- 12 So much
- 13 Reject, as an application
- 18 Place to skate
- 19 Spelling on TV
- 23 Knighted men
- 24 Poker pile
- 26 Online forum overseers
- 27 Remind, casually
- 28 Longtime partner of Fawcett
- 29 Physicist with a cult following
- 30 *Beverly Hillbillies* star
- 31 Certain Arab League representative
- 32 "That's false!"
- 36 "At which point?"
- 38 "Caveat emptor" condition
- 39 Daimler marque
- 40 Companion animals
- 42 "My opinion would be..."
- 43 Pester persistently
- 45 "That's gotta hurt!"
- 46 Kind of sch.
- 47 "Old MacDonald" refrain
- 50 A long time
- 51 U.S. senator, 1989–2007
- 52 "My opinion would be..."
- 54 Course 18th
- 55 Gulf of ___ (body of water off Latvia's coast)
- 56 Great economic benefit
- 57 Lodges
- 59 Opposite of paleo-
- 60 *The Lord of the Rings* beast
- 61 Casual shirt

The Week Contest

This week's question: President Trump has announced that his summit with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un is back on again after the tyrant sent him a "very nice" letter. If Broadway were to stage a musical about the meeting between the two flamboyant and mercurial leaders, what title should it have?

Last week's contest: New York's state supreme court has ordered 30-year-old Michael Rotondo to move out of his parents' home, after he ignored multiple eviction notices from his mom and dad as well as their repeated request to please get a job. Please come up with an advertising slogan for a legal firm that specializes in evicting Millennials from their parents' homes.

THE WINNER: We'll tear your heirs out
Saul Jay Singer, Silver Spring, Md.

SECOND PLACE: We launch your failure
Maryann Hooker, Media, Pa.

THIRD PLACE: The hands that lock out the cradled
Ken Kellam III, Dallas

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 "Singing summit" in the subject line. Entries are due by noon, Eastern Time, Tuesday, June 12. Winners will appear on the Puzzle Page next issue and at theweek.com/puzzles on Friday, June 15. 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: medium

			1	2				
7					6	9		
4		9					3	2
5		8		7				
		4		1		3		
				6		7		5
8	3					5		4
		1	4					7
				8	7			

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

©2018. All rights reserved. **The Week** is a registered trademark owned by the Executors of the Felix Dennis Estate. **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**, PO 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. **The Week** is a member of The New York Times News Service, The Washington Post/ Bloomberg News Service, McClatchy-Tribune Information Services, and subscribes to The Associated Press.

GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST. Behold the ridiculously comfortable Hubbard Fast. The finest European leathers up top, springy Vibram® sole down below. High performance cleverly cloaked in style. Order online or call us at (844) 482-4800.

SAMUEL HUBBARD.COM

SHOEMAKERS SINCE 1930



Enjoy your own

PRIVATE ESCAPE



EMIRATES FIRST

Because a little “me” time goes a long way, escape to your very own First Class Private Suite to indulge in gourmet dining and a premium selection of wines, champagne, and spirits. It’s everything you need to arrive refreshed and ready to impress. Find out more at emirates.com/us

The Ultimate Escape


Emirates®