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MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

THE WEEK

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What happened

Trump's ban on refugees

Donald Trump triggered chaos at US airports and protests around the world last week when he introduced sweeping new restrictions on immigration. His executive order put America's entire refugee settlement programme on hold for four months, and imposed an indefinite ban on the arrival of Syrian refugees. It also placed a 90-day entry ban on citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Trump said that tougher vetting of immigrants was needed to protect the US from terrorist attacks, but the move prompted a rash of protests, lawsuits and critical judicial rulings. When acting US attorney general Sally Yates instructed officials not to defend the president's order against court challenges, Trump fired her, saying she had "betrayed" the Justice Department.

The travel ban followed other controversial moves by Trump. He had earlier tweeted criticisms of Mexico, prompting the Mexican president to cancel a scheduled visit to the White House (see page 13). He also blindsided colleagues with a draft executive order that talked of revisiting torture and reopening secret CIA "black site" prisons (see page 19).



Protesters at Los Angeles airport

What the editorials said

"President Trump seems determined to conduct a shock and awe campaign to fulfil his campaign promises as quickly as possible, while dealing with the consequences later," said The Wall Street Journal. The Washington system does need shaking up, but it needs to be done with more care: Trump's refugee ban was "so blunderbuss and broad, so poorly explained and prepared for". The "inflammatory" order, issued on Holocaust Remembrance Day, will only lend credence to the jihadists' claim that America is at war with Islam, said The New York Times. And it makes no sense even on its own terms. The order invokes the 9/11 attacks as a rationale, yet exempts Saudi Arabia and the other countries of origin of the 9/11 hijackers. It also, "perhaps not coincidentally", exempts "several countries where the Trump family does business".

Trump's order is "a classic example of a solution in search of a problem", said the Los Angeles Times. Refugees are thoroughly vetted before being resettled in America, first by the UNHCR, and then by various US agencies in a process that "routinely takes one to two years". America has formally resettled more refugees than any other nation since WWII, and has benefitted from this openness. "Trump's actions are not only inhumane, they are a betrayal of what the US stands for."

What happened

A hard-left contender

A hardline left-winger, Benoît Hamon, was chosen this week as the Socialist Party's candidate in France's coming presidential election – a shock result that highlighted deepening divisions in French politics. The former education minister crushed ex-prime minister Manuel Valls in the Socialist primary, but will struggle against the other leading presidential contenders. Recent polls put support for Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Front at 25%; for centre-right candidate François Fillon at 22%; and for former Socialist economy minister Emmanuel Macron, now running as an independent, at 21%. Hamon trails on 15%.

Fillon's campaign was thrown into disarray by allegations that his Welsh-born wife, Penelope, was paid €830,000 from public funds for a fictitious job as his "parliamentary assistant". Fillon described the charges as a "smear".



Hamon: shock victory

What the editorials said

"These are dangerous times in French politics," said The Guardian. High unemployment and terrorist attacks have driven many voters to the right. The spectacle of a divided Left may now drive yet more voters into the arms of Le Pen. Hamon himself is a no-hoper, said The Wall Street Journal. His policies are a smorgasbord of "Socialist shibboleths" – a tax on robots, a universal basic income of €750, a 32-hour working week – just the sort of outlandish ideas that cost François Hollande, now the most unpopular president in France's postwar history, his reputation with the voters.

If the "Penelopegate" charges are made to stick, it will be "devastating" for the centre-right, said Le Monde (Paris). Fillon, who loves to parade his own integrity, and talks of "the courage of truth", has openly attacked ex-president Sarkozy over allegations of sleaze; in the interests of the economy, he advocates cutting 500,000 public sector jobs. That all sounds pretty rich coming from a politician who appears to have paid his wife so handsomely from the public purse for doing little or nothing.

It wasn't all bad

A Yorkshire sturgeon farm is producing the world's first ethically sourced caviar. Normally, the fish – which are endangered in the wild – are killed to get their prized eggs. But at KC Caviar, near Leeds, the sturgeon have their eggs pumped out using an apparently harmless massage technique. In later life, the fish – which live for 50 to 60 years, on average – will be sent to retire in lakes in Hungary and Bulgaria, while their offspring are raised in Yorkshire.

The astonishing story of a gorilla who was brought up in a Gloucestershire village a century ago has been uncovered by an amateur historian. The ape was captured as a baby in Gabon, and shipped to London. In 1918, Major Rupert Penny found him on sale in the London department store Derry and Toms, and bought him as a present for his sister, Alyce Cunningham. From then on, John Daniel – as he was known – spent much of his time at her home in the village of Uley. He had his own bedroom, made his bed, and helped with the washing-up. Beloved by the local children, who pushed him around in a wheelbarrow, he attended many of their lessons at the village school. He liked a cup of tea, and would also wait outside the pub for villagers to give him cider. But his story, pieced together by Uley resident Margaret Groom, has an unhappy ending: by 1921, John Daniel weighed almost 15st and was still growing, and Cunningham felt she could no longer cope. She sold him, thinking he was going to a home in Florida. Instead, he ended up in a circus. When she heard he was ill, she set sail straight away to tend to him – but he died, aged four, before she could get there.



COVER CARTOON: HOWARD MCWILLIAM

What the commentators said

So much for the idea that we shouldn't take Trump literally, said Jamelle Bouie on Slate. Before the election, some pundits assured us that his talk of banning Muslims was, like many of his more contentious proposals, merely "symbolic". Well, they were wrong. It's now clear that Trump meant what he said – and is determined to put it into action. Everything has gone crazy so fast, said Maureen Dowd in The New York Times. It took Americans years to find out that Richard Nixon was a paranoid madman, but with Trump, "it's all out there – the tantrums, the delusions, the deceptions, the self-doubts and overcompensation. If the last president was too far above the fray, this one is the fray. We've gone from no drama to all drama".

Spare me the liberal hysteria, said Rich Lowry in the New York Post. Trump's travel ban may be misguided, and its introduction was certainly mishandled, but it is not "un-American" to put the brakes on immigration for a few months in order to ensure the integrity of the nation's borders. It has happened before: in 1980, for instance, during the Iranian hostage crisis, Jimmy Carter banned Iranians from entering the US. Nor is Trump's decision to cap America's annual intake of refugees at 50,000 a radical departure: for the past five years, the US has typically admitted between 50,000 and 70,000 refugees.

Trump is not Hitler, said David Frum in The Atlantic, but he has set America on the path towards a subtler form of "21st century authoritarianism". He has illiberal instincts, and due to the nature of his character will inevitably seek to accumulate "an apparatus of impunity and revenge". And he won't face much resistance. As politics has become more polarised, Congress has "increasingly become a check only on presidents of the opposite party". As for protests, Trump relishes them – they fuel the turmoil and partisanship he feeds off. What Trump is vulnerable to, said Iain Martin on Reaction, is the charge of "woeful incompetence". The botched rollout of last week's ban was largely down to Trump's key adviser, Steve Bannon, who delights in disrupting Washington. His influence in Trump's "medieval court" has been growing (see page 6), but on this occasion he "made his boss look like a blundering buffoon".

What the commentators said

The selection of Hamon marks the end of an era in French politics, said Benjamin Masse-Stamberger in Le Figaro (Paris). For more than 30 years, the mainstream parties have peddled an "ambivalent" message, fudging the politics of Left and Right in a way that made it hard to choose between them. But the "Mitterrand-Chirac" age is over: we now have a clear ideological choice between the candidates. Hamon urges a return to the socialist "fundamentals"; Fillon is a social conservative and economic liberal in the Thatcher mould. Whoever wins, a "great upheaval" lies ahead. In normal times, the identity crisis tearing the heart out of the Socialist Party would herald a victory for the centre-right, said Ivan Rioufol in the same paper. But in our "increasingly flammable" society, that looks unlikely. Fillon will struggle to recover from the embezzlement charges: even if no wrongdoing is proved, they reveal an unattractive "lust for money". And Fillon's supporters could just as easily switch to Macron as to Le Pen.

I would say that "one by one, the planets are aligning to favour Emmanuel Macron", says Grégoire Poussielgue in Les Echos (Paris). The Right is occupied by the hardliners Le Pen and Fillon, but instead of heading more to the centre, the Socialists have gone and selected a radical. "That clears a large space in the centre of the political chessboard" where Macron can attract voters repelled by ideological quarrels. "There could hardly have been a better outcome for him." It's far too early for firm predictions, said Pierre Haski in The Guardian. Events on the other side of the Atlantic favour Le Pen. Her credibility has been enhanced by the spectacle of the "leader of the free world" implementing the very policies she has been advocating for years: protectionism and a ban on Islamic immigration. No, with the French public apparently ready to ignore every script written in the "political establishment's cosy world", all bets are off.

What next?

Trump has nominated Neil Gorsuch for the vacant position on the Supreme Court. If confirmed by the Senate to the lifelong post, the 49-year-old Colorado appeals court judge – a strict traditionalist – will restore the court's conservative 5-4 majority. Senior Democrats are fighting his appointment.

Last week's travel ban is expected to face myriad legal challenges. Washington state has filed a lawsuit, arguing that the order is unconstitutional, and several other state attorneys are considering legal action. The order may be unusually vulnerable to legal challenge, since it wasn't sent to the Office of Legal Counsel to be reviewed for form and legality, as major orders usually are.

What next?

Investigators have launched an inquiry into the Penelopegate affair, and raided Fillon's office in parliament. He may also face investigation over separate allegations that he paid himself €21,000 from funds earmarked for assistants' wages while a senator. If his Republican Party now wants to find a new candidate, it must act swiftly to meet election registration deadlines.

The first round of the presidential elections will be held on 23 April, to be followed by a run-off a fortnight later if there is no outright winner.

THE WEEK

How long is a political career? Churchill was at it for more than 60 years: having first become an MP in 1900, he retired in 1964, a year before his death. Macmillan managed 40. Thatcher was 66 when she left the Commons, in 1992. The big beasts of the Left were just as dogged. Harold Wilson was in the Commons for 38 years; James Callaghan for 42. Over the decades, they endured long periods in opposition and, in some cases, the humiliation of losing their seats. But politics was their lives, and they carried on, fighting to regain power and high office, or just serving their constituents from the backbenches. (Ted Heath lost the Tory leadership in 1975, but remained an MP until 2001.)

The younger generation of politicians seems to have less of an appetite for politics, and its ups and downs. Tony Blair (24 years) retired as an MP when he stood down as PM. As he'd gone into politics relatively young, he still had plenty of time to carve out his lucrative second career in consultancy. David Cameron (15 years) left Westminster within weeks of his resignation. It's unclear what he plans to do next, but he is believed to have already made hundreds of thousands on the lecture circuit. George Osborne has made £600,000 since leaving the Treasury, and though he is still an MP, he has risked his reputation by becoming a highly paid advisor to an asset management firm, raising speculation that he's not planning to stick around for long. It seems that for many of today's political leaders, politics isn't a vocation so much as a starter job.

Caroline Law

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Controversy of the week

Labour's Brexit shambles

One hundred and fifty words. That's all that is needed to end 40 years of British involvement in Europe, said The Independent. The Bill to activate Article 50, which is only a few lines long, was set to pass through the Commons this Wednesday evening. The SNP promised to vote against the legislation – and the Liberal Democrats, “all nine of them”, were united against it. But Theresa May appeared to have successfully smoothed its passage: since her speech laying out Britain's negotiating position, she seems to have united her party behind her. Jeremy Corbyn's Labour, by contrast, has been thrown into disarray. He ordered his MPs to support the Bill, but some 30 MPs representing Remain-voting seats were set to rebel, including some of the whips, even. Two members of the shadow cabinet, Tulip Siddiq and Jo Stevens, resigned.



Corbyn: “flailing on every front”

“The party's stance is an incoherent shambles,” said Rod Liddle in The Sunday Times – “much as it is on every other issue of national importance.” Labour spokesmen are torn between saying that of course they'll respect the referendum, or suggesting they'll do “everything possible to banjax Brexit and sod the voters”. (“If necessary, there will be hand-to-hand combat on this,” threatened shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry.) “You can almost see the Labour vote evaporating like a thin, fizzy, grey mist, all the way from Thurso to Truro.” Labour put forward a few amendments to the Article 50 Bill that “would offer some protection from the Prime Minister's rock-hard Brexit”, said Polly Toynbee in The Guardian. But by imposing a three-line whip whether or not the amendments are passed, he rendered them pointless. His “staggering ineptitude” has fragmented the party.

“It's easy to make fun of Jeremy's Corbyn's Labour Party,” said Tom Harris in The Daily Telegraph. “The latest developments could justifiably have been put on videotape, speeded up and had the Benny Hill theme added as the soundtrack.” But in fact, it's not clear what else Corbyn could have done. If he had given his MPs a free vote, he would have looked “disastrously weak” on the decade's single most important issue. If he had opposed the Article 50 Bill, he would have alienated a large chunk of the party's supporters in the north of England and the West Midlands, who are strongly pro-Leave. True, but clever leaders are meant to “devise ingenious ways” around such problems, said Philip Collins in The Times. Corbyn ought to at least “change the subject” occasionally, and “talk about the NHS, education and productivity”. Instead, he's flailing on every front. The “settled strategy” of most Labour MPs now is to wait for him to be “thrashed” at the next election, and then use the party's supposedly resilient 25% core vote as a base from which to rebuild. But the tectonic plates are shifting, and we may find that by then – as in Scotland – that core vote has simply ceased to exist. “It is time to take seriously the prospect that Corbyn may take the Labour Party with him.”

Thousands pardoned

Thousands of posthumous pardons have been issued to men convicted of homosexual offences that have been removed from the statute book. The so-called Turing Law, named after the wartime codebreaker Alan Turing, who was granted a posthumous royal pardon in 2013, is a clause in the Policing and Crime Bill, which came into force this week. The automatic posthumous pardon applies to 50,000 men. People still alive who have been convicted of, or cautioned for, homosexual acts that are no longer illegal – an estimated 15,000 – can now apply for pardons. A spokesman for Stonewall, the gay rights charity, hailed it as “another important milestone of equality”.

Ambulance delays

Ambulance crews spent 500,000 hours waiting outside hospitals last year because A&E staff were too busy to take in their patients, according to the National Audit Office. Ambulances are meant to take 15 minutes to hand over a patient, but in 2016 the target was met in just 58% of cases; over the past two years, the time spent waiting beyond this 15 minutes has increased by 52%. The report also found that 10% of paramedic posts are empty.

Spirit of the age

Doctors have been urged not to refer to pregnant women as “mothers”, to avoid offending trans or intersex men who become parents, and to “celebrate diversity”. A leaflet issued by the British Medical Association suggests NHS doctors should adopt the gender neutral term “pregnant people” instead. There is only one known case of a transitioning person in the UK becoming pregnant: Hayden Cross is in his second trimester.

Taking cakes to work could be a “public health hazard”, civil servants have been told. An official responsible for “well-being” advised Treasury staff to only bring in cakes occasionally – so as to be “mindful” of colleagues who have “difficulty resisting” processed sweet treats.

Good week for:

George Orwell, after his dystopian novel 1984 reached No. 1 on Amazon's bestsellers list. Donald Trump's election is believed to have led to renewed interest in the book, which features a Ministry of Truth, responsible for distorting facts, and introduced the concept of Newspeak, a language “designed to diminish the range of thought”.

Philip Green, who learned he is likely to hold onto his knighthood, at least for a while. The Honours Forfeiture Committee, the Whitehall panel responsible for such matters, has indicated it won't make its decision until two investigations into the retailer's actions have been concluded – and that isn't likely to be for years.

Bad week for:

Diesel drivers, who are going to face higher parking charges in central London. The scheme is being piloted in Westminster from April, to curb air pollution. Meanwhile, councillors in Birmingham have revealed that they are considering levying a charge on diesel drivers who enter the city centre.

Clubland, with news that London's Reform Club is being closed to its members for a month this summer, while it is let to a luxury goods firm. Cartier is believed to have paid £1.175m to rent the building, in Pall Mall, which it plans to use to showcase around 20 exclusive pieces to its high-rolling clientele.

3D TV, which appears to be joining Betamax on the scrapheap of technologies that never took off. The last two major manufacturers of the TVs – Sony and LG – have decided to stop producing the sets, citing dwindling consumer interest.

Poll watch

68% of British people think Nato still has an important role to play in defending Western countries. **62%** of Germans and **52%** of French people think the same. In the US, the figure is **46%**. **46%** of Americans also think the US has a duty to protect Europe; however, only **33%** of British adults and **25%** of French adults do. YouGov

45% of women surveyed in 23 countries believe they have equal opportunities to men; **60%** of men agree. In the UK, **51%** of women think opportunities are equal, as do **67%** of men. India ranks highest: **68%** of women think they have equal opportunities, and **76%** of men. Japan ranks bottom: just **25%** of women and **24%** of men agree with the statement. Ipsos Mori/The Observer

Venice, Italy

African refugee drowns: An investigation has been opened into the shocking death of a young Gambian man, who drowned in Venice's Grand Canal last week as scores of onlookers watched – some of them filming him on their mobile phones, laughing or making racist remarks. In video footage of the incident, one person is heard to shout “Go on, go back home”, as the man flails in the water. Another voice says, “Let him die at this point”. Three lifebelts were thrown to the man, named as Pateh Sabally, 22. But after rising to the water's surface, he appeared to make no effort to grab them, raising speculation that he may have intended to take his own life. He was then caught by a current and pulled under for the final time. Groups of African asylum seekers have become a common sight in towns and villages across Italy; having been denied access to France and Switzerland, many arrivals are effectively trapped inside the country.

Avdiivka, Ukraine

Surge in violence: Ukrainian troops have been desperately trying to stop Russian-backed separatist rebels in the east of the country seizing control of the industrial town of Avdiivka, a Ukrainian army stronghold. At least 13 civilians and fighters were killed in fighting this week – the worst violence since a new truce was agreed on 23 December. The town, a few miles north of the rebel-held city of Donetsk, is home to one of Europe's largest coking and chemical plants, and its capture by the rebels would cut off supplies to Ukraine's steel industry. The fighting has left residents without power and heating, and has led to bread queues: Ukrainian officials are preparing for a possible evacuation of the town's population, estimated at up to 22,000. The Kremlin denies it is backing the rebels. Since 2014, at least 9,600 people, more than half of them civilians, have been killed in the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Moscow

Gorbachev's warning: Donald Trump spoke to Vladimir Putin over the phone for an hour on Saturday, his first call to his Russian counterpart since his inauguration. Both sides described it as a constructive conversation, in which they discussed “mutual cooperation” on issues including the fight against terrorism, the Ukraine conflict and restoring trade ties. They did not discuss alleged Russian cyberattacks. Earlier, Putin's predecessor, Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, had voiced the fear that the world seems to be “preparing for war” – and urged Putin and Trump to unite to reduce the world's nuclear arsenal. “Politicians and military leaders sound increasingly belligerent,” he wrote in Time magazine.



Pitigliano, Italy

Wolves killed: Wolves in Italy are being illegally shot dead, mutilated and left outside villages and towns by enraged farmers protesting against the damage done to livestock by the resurgent

predator. In the latest incident, a decapitated wolf was found dumped outside the medieval ridgetop village of Pitigliano in Tuscany. In the 1970s Italy declared wolves a protected species, and since then the country's wolf population has grown from about a hundred animals to an estimated 2,000, reports The Daily Telegraph. The government is now considering a limited cull of the animal.



Barcelona, Spain

Tourism law: In an attempt to curb the number of visitors to Barcelona, the city authorities have passed a law banning the building of new hotels or tourist apartments in the city centre. And if an existing hotel or apartment closes, its capacity cannot be replaced. The number of tourists visiting the Catalan capital has surged over the past 25 years, leading to growing complaints from residents about overcrowding, noise and soaring rents, as speculators focus on lucrative holiday lets instead of housing for locals. In 2016, the city – which has 1.6 million inhabitants – was visited by an estimated 32 million tourists, more than half of whom stayed there overnight. Last weekend several thousand locals joined a protest on the famous central boulevard, La Rambla, bearing banners saying, “Barcelona is not for sale”. The tourist industry accounts for about an eighth of Barcelona's income.

Athens

Turkish officers won't be extradited: The Supreme Court in Athens has rejected a Turkish request to extradite eight Turkish military officers who fled to Greece in the aftermath of the failed coup against President Erdogan last July, on the grounds that returning them to Turkey would threaten their “fundamental human rights”. The verdict, which followed two rounds of appeals by the Turkish authorities, was greeted with anger in Ankara, and is likely to further worsen the fractious relations between the two countries, both Nato members. The eight officers – two majors, four captains and two NCOs – fled by helicopter to Greek territory hours after the coup attempt, but deny being involved in it. They have applied for political asylum in Greece, and say their lives would be in danger if they returned. Ankara has now threatened to end its migrant deal with Greece if the officers are not sent back.



Ankara

May in Turkey: Theresa May has become the first Western leader to visit Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan since the failed military coup last July. May

flew direct to Ankara from Washington DC, arriving last Saturday. During her trip she hailed Turkey as an “important Nato ally”, endorsed a UK-Turkish deal (worth an initial £100m) to build a new fighter jet, and discussed the potential for a post-Brexit free trade deal. She didn't refer directly to Erdogan's intensive clampdown on dissent since the coup, but urged him – as he looked on stony-faced – to sustain democracy and maintain “the rule of law”.

Washington DC**Alarm over Bannon's security role:**

President Trump's unprecedented decision to exclude the chairman of the US military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the director of national intelligence, from the small committee that decides US security policy – but to include Steve Bannon, his chief strategist and political advisor – has caused anger and alarm in parts of the Washington security establishment. Bannon (right), a former executive of the alt-right Breitbart news website, who has repeatedly been accused of racism, misogyny and Islamophobia, has been given a permanent seat on the “principals committee” of the National Security Council. By contrast, the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of national intelligence have been told their presence will only be required when “issues pertaining to their responsibilities and expertise are to be discussed”. Susan Rice, national security advisor in the Obama administration, called the move “stone cold crazy”, and tweeted, sarcastically, “Who needs military advice or intel to make policy [on Isis, Syria, Afghanistan, or North Korea]”. Eliot Cohen, a security advisor to the last Bush administration, called the move “abnormal” and “dangerous”.

**Québec City, Canada**

Terror attack: A 27-year-old French-Canadian student, with no previous history of violence, entered a mosque in Québec City last Sunday during evening prayers and opened fire on worshippers, killing six and wounding 19 others. He was arrested after calling police and identifying himself as the killer. According to fellow students, Alexandre Bissonnette had never revealed an interest in extremist politics until Marine Le Pen visited the city last March: he was known to be quiet, shy and interested in chess, and combined his studies with working in a call centre for a blood donation agency. After Le Pen's visit, however, he had taken to extreme online activism, spewing hatred about refugees and feminism. His attack came shortly after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had voiced his strong opposition to Donald Trump's controversial immigration ban on Muslim refugees, declaring that “Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith”.

Seattle, Washington

Businesses attack travel ban: Major US businesses and Wall Street banks – including Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft, Google, Starbucks, Coca-Cola, Ford, Goldman Sachs and Citigroup – have attacked President Trump's controversial ban on travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries. Jeff Bezos, chief executive of the Seattle-based Amazon, said he was backing a legal challenge to the ban by the attorney-general of Washington state; Microsoft said the same. Google co-founder Sergey Brin, who came to the US as a refugee from the Soviet Union, delivered an address to employees holding placards with messages such as “refugees welcome here” and “no ban; no wall” (see page 42).

**Money, Mississippi**

Lynching admission: The white woman at the centre of the Emmett Till case – one of the most notorious race crimes in US history – admitted that she fabricated her testimony, it has emerged. Till (left), a 14-year-old black boy, was visiting segregated Mississippi from Chicago in 1955 when he went into a shop in the town of Money to buy gum, and briefly met Carolyn Bryant, then 21. Days later, he was abducted by Bryant's husband and his brother, beaten, shot and mutilated. In

court, Bryant testified that Till had grabbed and threatened her – and the two men were acquitted, by an all-white jury. They later admitted they'd killed Till to teach black people a lesson, but couldn't be retried under double jeopardy laws. Now, a historian has revealed Bryant confessed in 2007 that she lied about Till's advances. “That part isn't true,” she told Timothy Tyson.

Santiago

Killer fires: More than 40 people have been detained in Chile for their “possible responsibility” for some of the 130 forest fires that have killed at least 11 people, and left thousands homeless, in the past two weeks. The wildfires – described by President Michelle Bachelet as the “greatest forest disaster” in Chile's history – have raged across central and southern parts of the country since the middle of January, fanned by strong winds and high temperatures. An entire town, Santa Olga (pop. 6,000), was burnt to the ground late last week. “This is an extremely serious situation – of horror, a nightmare without end,” said Carlos Valenzuela, the mayor of the neighbouring city of Constitución. By Wednesday – with 11,000 people fighting the fires, aided by supertanker planes from Russia, Brazil and the US – around 50 blazes were under control.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Billionaire arrested: The Brazilian billionaire Eike Batista, who not long ago was Brazil's richest man, has been arrested on corruption charges after flying home to Rio de Janeiro to “clear his name”. He is accused of paying \$16.5m (£13m) in bribes to Sérgio Cabral, the former governor of Rio state who was arrested last year. Their arrests are part of a sweeping investigation into corruption inside two of Brazil's biggest businesses: state-owned oil company Petrobras and the construction firm Odebrecht. Odebrecht executives have testified that the firm has been running a “massive” bribery scheme, paying \$788m (£624m) in bribes across a dozen countries. It's expected they will implicate several top politicians, including Michel Temer, Brazil's president.



Kolbio, Somalia

Al-Shabaab attack on Kenyan troops:

Islamist militants from the al-Qa'eda-linked group al-Shabaab have killed dozens of Kenyan soldiers in an attack on a Kenyan military base in southern Somalia. Al-Shabaab began life as the radical youth wing of the now-defunct Islamic Courts Union, a federation of local clan-based courts that controlled southern Somalia until late 2006, when they were forced out by Ethiopian forces. It has been conducting a separatist insurgency in Somalia ever since. About 3,600 Kenyan troops are now in Somalia as part of a 22,000-strong African Union military mission, supported by the US, to counter al-Shabaab and stabilise the country. Kenyan authorities would not confirm casualty figures in last week's attack, but maintained that their soldiers had repulsed the militants.

Thengar Char, Bangladesh

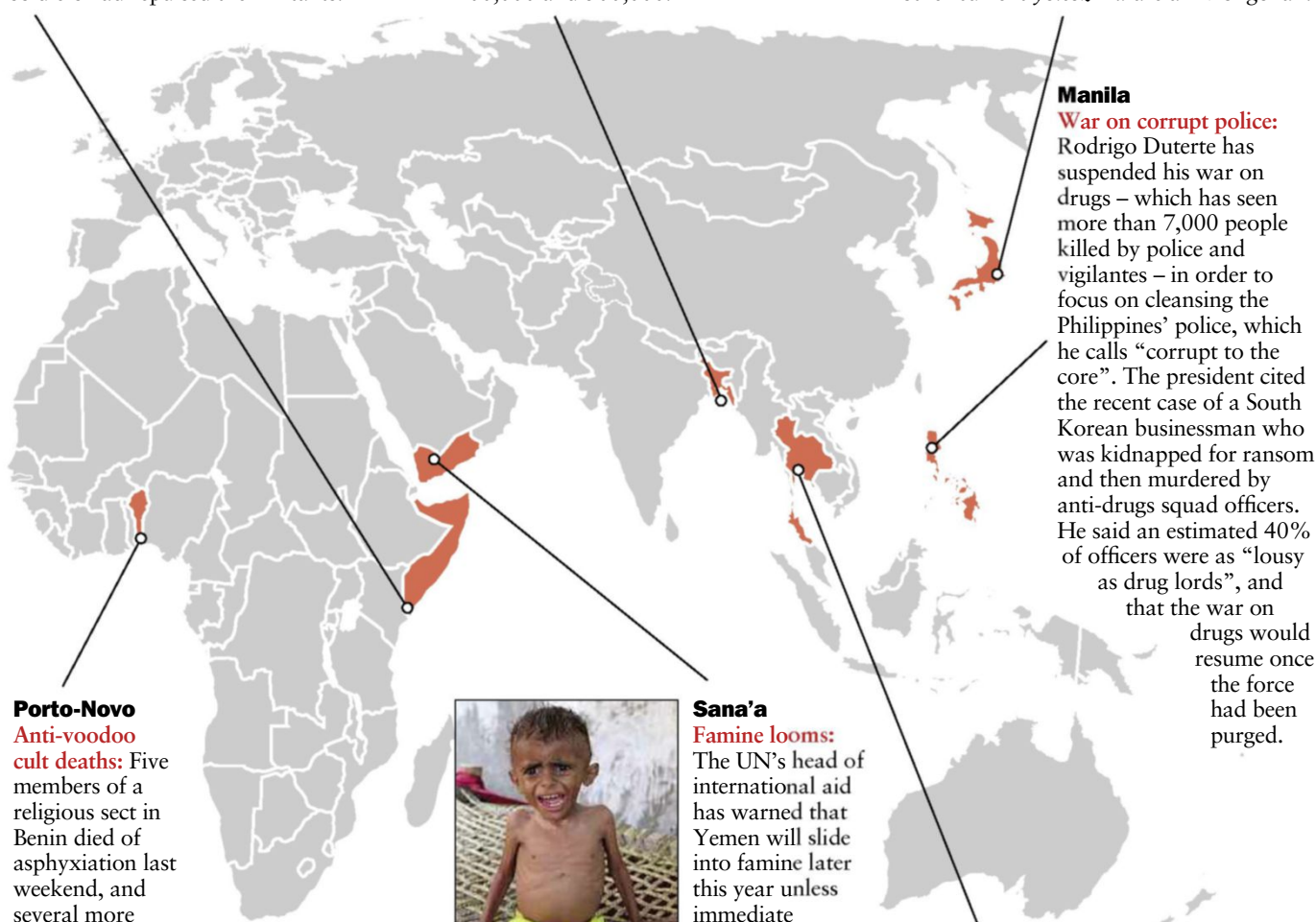
Island plan for Rohingya:

The Bangladesh government has ordered officials to relocate tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees, who have fled from neighbouring Burma, to Thengar Char – an island in the Bay of Bengal which is submerged under water in monsoon season, and has no roads or flood defences. Bangladesh first proposed the relocation plan in 2015, but dropped it in the face of international criticism. It has reinstated the plan since a brutal crackdown by Burma's army led to the arrival of a further 65,000 Rohingya. Burma's government makes the hotly disputed claim that the Rohingya are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, who arrived in Burma after the country attained independence. The number who have fled to Bangladesh is estimated at between 200,000 and 500,000.

Tokyo

Big in Japan:

Japan's long wait for a homegrown sumo *yokozuna* (grand champion of sumo wrestling) has finally come to an end: 30-year-old Kisenosato was awarded the ranking, the sport's highest honour, after winning a grand tournament last week. The wrestler (above), who weighs more than 27st, is the first Japanese-born *yokozuna* since 1998. In recent years the ancient Japanese sport has been dominated by wrestlers from Mongolia, Hawaii and Samoa: the three other current *yokozuna* are all Mongolian.



Manila

War on corrupt police:

Rodrigo Duterte has suspended his war on drugs – which has seen more than 7,000 people killed by police and vigilantes – in order to focus on cleansing the Philippines' police, which he calls "corrupt to the core". The president cited the recent case of a South Korean businessman who was kidnapped for ransom and then murdered by anti-drugs squad officers. He said an estimated 40% of officers were as "lousy as drug lords", and that the war on drugs would resume once the force had been purged.

Porto-Novo

Anti-voodoo cult deaths:

Five members of a religious sect in Benin died of asphyxiation last weekend, and several more required hospital treatment, as a result of following their leader's instruction to seal themselves into prayer rooms, burn incense and charcoal, and await the end of the world. The group, which calls itself the Very Holy Church of Jesus Christ of Baname, is known for its sometimes violent opposition to the traditional religion of Voodoo. Thousands of Baname followers across the country regard their young, female leader, Vicentia Chanvoukini – known as "Lady Perfect" – as a living god. About 40% of Benin's population follow Voodoo, and many local Christians and Muslims incorporate elements of Voodoo into their faiths.



Sana'a

Famine looms:

The UN's head of international aid has warned that Yemen will slide into famine later this year unless immediate action is taken.

The country, one of the poorest in the world, and long reliant on imports for 90% of its staple foods, has been devastated by two years of civil war, and by an ongoing blockade of its main ports by Saudi Arabia. An estimated 14.4 million people, almost 50% of the population, are now dependent on food aid for survival. According to the UN's Stephen O'Brien, 2.2 million children in Yemen are acutely malnourished: every ten minutes, on average, a child under the age of five dies there of preventable causes.

Bangkok

Jailed for insult:

A Thai welder has been jailed for more than 11 years for insulting the Thai royal family in an (undisclosed) Facebook post and a private online message. Burin Intin has admitted the crime of *lèse-majesté* and a second charge of putting "false data" on a computer. Had he pled "not guilty", he would have faced a 22-year sentence. His lawyer said Burin would not appeal the sentence, but would instead ask for a royal pardon. The woman to whom Burin sent the offending message, Patnaree Chankij – whose son is a political activist – has been arrested for not denouncing Burin.

The fighting sisters

Geeta and Babita Phogat are suddenly famous twice over, says Amrit Dhillon in *The Guardian*. The sisters, who grew up in the rural Indian state of Haryana, are both world-class wrestlers. They are also the subject of a new film, *Dangal*, which has already become the highest-grossing Bollywood movie of all time. It tells the story of how their father – himself a former amateur wrestler – defied social convention to train the girls in this traditionally male sport. In reality, says 26-year-old Babita, “the hostility towards us was far worse than what is shown in the film. We were two girls who, according to custom, should have been draped in loose clothes to disguise our curves, but instead we were running around the wheat fields in shorts and Lycra tops and cropped hair”. Other villagers would whisper insults to their father: “May insects eat your insides.” “You are spoiling your girls.” “They will turn wild and bring shame on you.” And it wasn’t just the neighbours. “All the men in our family swore at him for training us,” says Geeta, 28. “His parents said he was mad. But he didn’t listen.”

Instead, he banned his daughters from wearing make-up or jewellery, and made them train for hours every morning and evening. “He never let up,” says Babita. “If he caught us arguing at home, he’d be livid: ‘You can’t have trained enough, because if you had, you wouldn’t have the energy

to argue.’” It was “torture”, she admits, but it paid off: Geeta won a gold at the 2010 Commonwealth Games, and Babita pulled off the same feat in 2014. But perhaps most important, says Geeta, is what this upbringing did for their souls. “My father gave us inner confidence. He taught us, as young girls, never to be scared. I feel that Indian women are too frightened. They all say, ‘I can’t do this, I can’t do that,’ Things are not going to change until Indian women, and their parents, stop being afraid of what society will say.”

Thatcher’s biggest hater

Tosh McDonald is a trade unionist of the old school. The 56-year-old president of Aslef has worked on the railways since 1979, as a freight guard and now as a train driver. “I first started on the railways a month after Thatcher came to power,” he told Danny Scott in *The Sunday Times*. “I was a gobby lad and couldn’t wait to join the union. My politics came from my grandad. He was a miner and was involved in the 1926 general strike. He never forgave the Salvation Army for driving trucks during the strike. Called them scabs.” McDonald believes the current government has it in for the transport unions (“They look at us like Thatcher looked at the miners – they want to break [us]”), but he doesn’t loathe them like he did the Iron Lady. “I hated Thatcher so much that I used to set my alarm an hour earlier, just so I could hate her for an extra hour!”



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

Castaway of the week

This week’s edition of Radio 4’s Desert Island Discs featured the former England football captain David Beckham

- 1* *Every Time We Say Goodbye* by Cole Porter, performed by Ella Fitzgerald
- 2 *What a Fool Believes* by Michael McDonald and Kenny Loggins, performed by Michael McDonald and the Doobie Brothers
- 3 *I am the Resurrection* by Ian Brown and John Squire, performed by The Stone Roses
- 4 *Something About The Way You Look Tonight* by Elton John and Bernie Taupin, performed by Elton John
- 5 *No Es Lo Mismo*, written and performed by Alejandro Sanz
- 6 *Wild Horses* by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, performed by the Rolling Stones
- 7 *The Girl is Mine* by Michael Jackson, performed by Michael Jackson and Paul McCartney
- 8 *Si Tu Vois Ma Mère*, written and performed by Sidney Bechet

Book: *Mallmann on Fire* by Francis Mallmann

Luxury: His England caps

* Choice if allowed only one record

Viewpoint:**Marching against Trump**

“I like to prance around in hats as much as the next broad, but there were several reasons why I chose not to join the Women’s March. For one thing, I was sure it would be full of ‘Strong Women’, a phrase I hate at the best of times – and feel should only be used if the lady in question can tear a telephone directory in half with her bare hands – and which seems strangely inappropriate to describe a bunch of overgrown Violet Elizabeth Botts having a collective temper tantrum because their side lost. Once again, we saw the regressive Left repeating the same behaviour that lost it power in the first place – namely, childishly demonising any opponent as Hitler With Funny Hair.”

Julie Burchill in The Spectator

Farewell

Sir Christopher Bland, former BT and BBC chairman, died 28 January, aged 78.

Alexander Chancellor, editor of *The Spectator* and *The Oldie*, died 28 January, aged 77.

Mary Tyler Moore, actor and comedian, died 25 January, aged 80.

Brunhilde Pomsel, former secretary to Joseph Goebbels, died 27 January, aged 106.

Emmanuelle Riva, Bafta-winning star of *Amour*, died 27 January, aged 89.



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3. Domestic plug charge: 5 hours, 16 Amp home charge point: 3.5 hours, 80% rapid charge: 25mins. 4. Congestion Charge application required, subject to administrative fee. 5. 7% BIK compared to the average rate of 25%. 7% BIK rate for the 2016/17 tax year. 6. Prices shown include the Government Plug-in Car Grant and VAT (at 20%), but exclude First Registration Fee. Model shown is an Outlander PHEV 4hs at £38,999 including the Government Plug-in Car Grant. On The Road prices range from £32,304 to £43,554 and include VED, First Registration Fee and the Government Plug-in Car Grant. Metallic/pearlescent paint extra. Prices correct at time of going to print. For more information about the Government Plug-in Car Grant please visit www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants. The Government Plug-in Car Grant is subject to change at any time, without prior notice. 7. All new Outlander PHEV variants come with a 5 year/62,500 mile warranty (whichever occurs first) and an 8 year/100,000 mile traction battery warranty. 8. The 0% APR Hire Purchase Finance plan requires no deposit and is over 36 months. Retail sales only. It is only available through Shogun Finance Ltd T/A Finance Mitsubishi, 116 Cockfosters Road, Barnet, EN4 0DY and is subject to status to UK resident customers aged 18 and over. Finance Mitsubishi is part of Lloyds Banking Group. Offer is only applicable in the UK (excludes Channel Islands & I.O.M), subject to availability, whilst stocks last and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer and is available between 29th December 2016 and 29th March 2017.

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Utopia in Middle England

Milton Keynes celebrates its 50th birthday this year. Though often derided, Britain's biggest new town is arguably a great success

Who has been nasty about it?

For its entire half-century of existence, Milton Keynes has been disparaged and ridiculed. In the early days, the local press mourned the desecration of north Buckinghamshire. In 1974, the journalist Christopher Booker called it an “utterly depersonalised nightmare” reminiscent of Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* – a “sea of mud” dotted with “hundreds of grim little misshapen boxes, in brick or corrugated metal, turned out by machine”. Town planner Francis Tibbalds described it as “bland, rigid, sterile and totally boring”. Milton Keynes, said Patrick Barkham in *The Guardian*, has been continually derided as a “soulless suburb or ‘non-place’... inconsiderately plunked in the centre of olde worlde Middle England”. Yet it has thrived: it’s the biggest and most successful of the postwar new towns; polls and anecdotal evidence suggest that the locals love it.



Milton Keynes in 1972: sterile and totally boring?

What do they like about Milton Keynes?

It just seems to be an excellent place to live – an “urban Eden”, in the words of one local conservation group, with 22 million trees and shrubs, extensive parks, lakes and rivers, 186 miles of cycle paths, and a great deal of public art, including its famous concrete cows. Traffic jams are rare on its well-planned roads; you can usually drive from end to end in ten minutes. It has also been Britain’s fastest-growing urban centre outside London, exceeding its target population of 250,000 and attracting such companies as Volkswagen, Mercedes and Santander, along with the Open University and Wimbledon FC (since 2004, the Milton Keynes Dons). Even its architecture is now fashionable. The Grade II listed shopping centre in Central Milton Keynes (CMK) is often described as the most beautiful in Britain. Town planners from around the world, particularly China, visit to take inspiration.

How did the town come into being?

Milton Keynes was originally a small village surrounded by poor farmland – gently rolling and prone to floods. But on 23 January 1967, Harold Wilson’s Labour government formally earmarked the village and surrounding 34 square miles for a new town; the site was strategically placed halfway between London and Birmingham, and Oxford and Cambridge, just off the new M1. They envisaged a futuristic “linear city”, a long rectangle of tower blocks served by a looping monorail. But its architects pushed for it to be taken in a very different direction.

What was their plan?

Inspired by Los Angeles, they designed a town based on the growing dominance of the car: a US-style grid of big roads spaced about 1km (0.6 miles) apart, with each “grid square” containing a residential, recreation or business district. But the practical infrastructure was overlaid with a pastoral, utopian vision. The river valleys were labelled “linear parks”, with lakes for floodwater. The central Midsummer Boulevard was laid out to ensure the rising sun shone straight

down it at midsummer, as at Stonehenge. Roads and roundabouts were lined with grassy banks and trees. It was to be the “city in the forest”; even now, you can drive around it and hardly see any buildings. The planners were far-sighted, designing car parks that seemed laughably huge at the time. Extensive paths for pedestrians and cyclists – known as “redways”, for the red tarmac used – were designed to go under or over the roads, to avoid accidents.

Was it an immediate success?

No. Progress was initially slow, thanks to builders’ strikes and lack of government investment. Some of the first public housing estates were grim and poorly constructed. Many of the early arrivals – about half of them from London – were

“disadvantaged”, according to the Development Corporation’s 1977 report. “Disorientation, loneliness and the breakup of marriages are frequent features in the accounts of the pioneers,” writes Andy Beckett, a historian of the 1970s. The drought of 1976 killed 200,000 saplings. But, unusually for a large public housing development of the time, the obligation to consult and respond to residents was a central element of the project. Residents said they wanted privacy and a “village” feel, and in later “grid-square” developments, they got it. “The public voted with their feet,” said Derek Walker, the chief architect of Milton Keynes. So did business. More jobs were created there between 1971 and 1981 than in any other UK city except Aberdeen.

How has it fared since then?

Its demography has changed: middle-class escapees from London now dominate. In the early days, planners aimed at a 50:50 split between public and private housing. In 2016, 74% of homes were owner-occupied. In the 1980s, radical housing experiments lost out to the suburban semi-detached (Bill Bryson called it an “endless Bovisville”). Today, the town has a relatively young, diverse population (26% ethnic minority); employment is above the national average. Yet though it is now around the 35th biggest urban centre in the UK, its attempts to be officially designated a city have been repeatedly rebuffed.

New towns and garden cities

Milton Keynes was partly inspired by Ebenezer Howard’s garden cities in Hertfordshire – Letchworth (founded in 1903) and Welwyn (1920). Dismayed by crowded, unhealthy Victorian cities, Howard designed green belt settlements where houses were interspersed with parks and boulevards. Those garden cities have been copied across the world, but the new towns designated by the Attlee government in 1946, from Stevenage and Crawley to Corby, Peterborough and Telford, are mostly a byword for poor planning: the term “new town blues” was coined to describe the dismay of urban populations “rescued” from poor, bombed-out housing to find themselves in a world of concrete precincts, grim underpasses and depressing flat-roofed houses. Milton Keynes came in the third and final wave of new towns, which ran from 1967-70.

Politicians have recently tried to revive the idea of new settlements – without much success. In 2007, Gordon Brown vowed to build ten new “ecotowns” to ease housing demand. Only four were approved, amid much local opposition; progress has been slow. The current government has announced a plan for 14 new “garden villages”, and three “garden towns” – one to be built on green belt land on the Essex-Hertfordshire border.

How does its future look?

Rosy. It’s well adapted to current economic realities – to the dominance of the tech and service industries – and well positioned in the thriving “brain belt” between Cambridge and Oxford. In fact, Milton Keynes is a victim of its own success: the Government wants the local authority to build 28,000 new houses by 2026, but all the original squares in the grid have now been filled. New estates are being plunked down inside that do not respect the “original vision”: the town’s green spaces – still around 40% of the total area – are being eaten away. Grid roads are being blocked off, or built over to create narrow streets fringed by bog-standard housing in place of grassy banks. There is even a plan under consideration to build on the open spaces of Midsummer Boulevard.

Our surgeries are woefully underfunded

Prit Buttar

The Daily Telegraph

A bold plan to help damaged women

Janice Turner

The Times

Restoring full employment is a fantasy

John Harris

The Guardian

A tax hike that could cripple corner shops

Dominic Lawson

Daily Mail

If you're wondering why GPs like me are struggling to provide a decent level of care, says Prit Buttar, look no further than this striking statistic: over the past decade, the number of times the average patient visits his or her GP each year has doubled. That's right: doubled. Yet the funding that doctors' practices receive has "barely risen". There's the problem in a nutshell. Unlike hospital doctors, GPs aren't usually employed by the NHS. Their practices work like businesses: they get a set sum of money per patient (a mere £146 a year, on average) from which to pay all costs and wages. That's nowhere near enough to deal with current levels of demand. GPs used to get small extra payments for minor procedures such as removing warts or skin tags. Not any more: they now have to do them for free or not at all. So fewer get done. No matter that many patients would happily pay their GP for such non-urgent procedures, the rules forbid GPs from accepting payments. It's unsustainable. If ministers won't fund GPs properly, patients must be allowed to help fund the system themselves.

Can it ever be right to stop women having children? The charity Pause certainly thinks so, says Janice Turner. Over the past three years it has arranged for 137 women to get contraceptive implants – women who between them have 497 children who were taken into care. One such woman is Lisa, a homeless heroin addict, who's seen four of her children put into care – the last two removed days after birth – and who would have gone on having babies because, as she notes, "men are nicer when you're pregnant, don't hit you so much. And social workers look after you". So Lisa was offered a deal: put your fertility on hold for 18 months with an implant and receive intense therapy for mental illness, and advice on housing and finding a job. Many think that removing people's fertility in this way, even if only temporarily, smacks of eugenics; and clearly, this is "tricky ethical territory". But when you see how this project allows these damaged women to regain control of their lives, and when you consider how much misery can be averted, it's surely an initiative worth supporting.

You'd have thought US union bosses – Hillary Clinton backers to a man – would have been seething after meeting Donald Trump in the White House last week, says John Harris. Not a bit of it. "The respect that [Trump] just showed us," said the head of the North America's Building Trades Unions, "was nothing short of incredible." And that's because something truly radical, obscured in the fog created by his bigotry and lies, stands at the heart of Trump's agenda: a bold project to restore full employment. He is setting out to "eat the American Left's lunch". Protectionism, threats to errant companies, appeals to patriotism, a level of "fiscal activism not seen since the 1930s" – Trump is ready to try anything to lure manufacturing firms back to the US. And he may succeed: indeed, many have returned already. But here's the rub. They're doing so precisely because the rapid advances in automation enable them to shed labour: "a robot is even cheaper than a Chinese worker, so 'reshoring' is a rational choice". The notion that our political leaders have the power to restore old-fashioned, secure jobs is one that unites voters of the hard-right and the Left. Trump "may be about to test that idea to destruction".

Mrs Shah, who runs my local corner shop, is furious, says Dominic Lawson. Who can blame her? She and her husband have had their small store in Pimlico, Westminster, for the past 27 years. But the Government may be about to put it out of business. On 1 April, there is to be a "revaluation" of business rates around the country, the first for seven years. And as the rates are based on property values, the tax hike for businesses in central London will be "dramatic": the Shahs' bills will rise by £20,000 over the next three years. Supermarkets and big chain stores will be able to absorb the extra cost, but for those like the Shahs, who already work long hours, seven days a week, on slender profit margins, the change will be crippling. These family shops are hubs of their local community – places where the owners know your name, offer you credit if you forget your wallet, hold a set of your house keys to give to a plumber if you're out. They'll disappear and be replaced by yet more charity shops, which are exempt from business rates, or by Tesco stores. And we'll all be worse off for it.

IT MUST BE TRUE... I read it in the tabloids

The Large Hadron Collider is the most powerful particle accelerator in the world, but it only took a small, weasel-like animal to shut the research centre down. A stone marten jumped over a substation fence near the Swiss facility last November, and was hit by 18,000 volts of electricity, knocking out power to the site. The animal's singed corpse is now on display at the Rotterdam Natural History Museum, as part of its Dead Animal Tales exhibition. Other exhibits include a sparrow that was shot after it sabotaged a world record attempt by knocking over 23,000 dominoes.



A photo of 80 birds of prey on a plane went viral. A Saudi prince is believed to have bought tickets for the feathered passengers on a Qatar Airways flight. The transportation of falcons on Middle Eastern airlines is fairly commonplace, albeit not in these numbers. The birds are often flown abroad to take part in hunts, and are allocated a seat – subject to the necessary paperwork – and placed on cloths in case of any accidents.

A Russian tank-maker has published a book aimed at children of preschool age. The illustrated story, *Adventures of the Little Tank*, follows a toy that spends the night in the museum of defence manufacturer UralVagonZavod, meeting the full-size machines and hearing about their "adventures" in foreign lands. The company says the book tells children about "awe-inspiring combat vehicles in an accessible and absorbing way", and will help instil patriotism.

The folly of Trump's "big beautiful wall"

Donald Trump is a real estate developer by trade, said the **Chicago Tribune**, but his "most creative talent is the construction and sale of myths". And they don't come bigger than his pledge to build a "big beautiful wall" between America and Mexico – and make Mexico pay for it. This promise was a centrepiece of his campaign, and he has stuck to it, causing a "diplomatic dust-up" with America's southern neighbour. By long-standing tradition, incoming US presidents meet their Mexican counterparts soon after assuming office. But a scheduled meeting last week between Trump and Enrique Peña Nieto was called off after Trump tweeted that if the Mexican president wasn't ready to commit to pay for the wall, he might as well not come. Nieto promptly cancelled. Hours later, the White House floated the idea of imposing a 20% tax on imports from Mexico to pay for the wall.

This is an absurd bit of posturing by Trump, said Juliette Kayyem on **CNN.com**. "There already is a wall – 700 miles of it – along the roughly 1,900-mile US-Mexico border." The rest is policed by border control agents, drones and surveillance technology. Creating a continuous ocean-to-gulf wall simply



Obrador: Mexico's Hugo Chávez?

isn't practical. You can't build a wall through the Rio Grande, for instance, and would it really be worth erecting a 10ft barrier on top of a 10,000ft mountain? There are also legal hurdles: much of the land is tribal territory, or privately owned.

The wall plan doesn't make sense, agreed Mona Charen in **National Review**. Illegal crossings have actually been falling for a decade, and more Mexicans are heading south over the border today than north. Trump's insistence that Mexico pay for a wall may play well with his supporters, and satisfy his "penchant for humiliating others", but it's storing up trouble. It has caused fury in Mexico, already under stress due to falling oil prices, a faltering economy and corruption. Mexico is not going to pay "for that f***ing wall", fumed former president Vicente Fox in a tweet last week. If relations remain this bad, it will increase the odds of next year's Mexican presidential election being won by Andrés Manuel López Obrador, a populist rabble-rouser in the mould of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez. "Good fences may make good neighbours. But this wall, and particularly the way Trump has rubbed Mexicans' noses in it, may turn a good neighbour bad fast."

Is Obama "this generation's JFK?"

Rich Lowry

National Review

Barack Obama's legacy is being erased, says Rich Lowry, but his reputation will survive. Indeed, the mythology surrounding his presidency will only grow in the years ahead. He is destined to be "remembered – and revered – by his admirers as his generation's JFK". But not so much for what he accomplished, as for what he stood for. A young, photogenic African-American man with impeccably liberal values, he was a symbol of generational and cultural change. His election was a genuine "milestone" in America's history, and his two terms of office saw some big shifts in public attitudes. "In the space of about seven years, [Obama] went from opposing gay marriage to lighting up the White House in rainbow colours to celebrate the Supreme Court's gay marriage decision." If and when America's liberals return to the political ascendancy, Obama will be remembered as the architect of the progressive revival. And in the meantime, he's not going anywhere. He'll remain in the public eye as a memoirist, lecturer and talk-show guest, "representing enlightened liberalism in exile, stoking nostalgia and yearning among his supporters". Obama's substantive legacy may be crumbling, but his "apotheosis" has only just begun.

Trump's use of Twitter is a security risk

Joseph Bernstein

BuzzFeed

"The most powerful publication in the world today," says Joseph Bernstein, "is Donald Trump's personal Twitter account." It can move financial markets, provoke foreign powers and set off media firestorms – and, like all Twitter accounts, it's "shockingly insecure". Hacking a Twitter account doesn't require the "resources of a nation state". In the past year, the accounts of Mark Zuckerberg, Keith Richards and the foreign minister of Belgium were among those hacked: a number of high-profile hacks were traced to a Saudi teenager. Indeed, Trump's own account has been hacked before: in 2013 a prankster tweeted Trump's followers a rude rap lyric. That incident caused no great harm, but imagine what someone could do today if they seized control of Trump's account and posted messages in his name. They could provoke an international incident, or earn a fortune by influencing stock prices, or unleash the rage of Trump's 23 million followers on an individual. If Trump stuck to the official @POTUS account, which has extra security protocols, such as multiple password layers, it would lessen the danger. But he's still using his personal @realDonaldTrump account, reportedly on an old, unsecured Android phone. It's a "security disaster waiting to happen".

A city with as many dogs as children

Thomas Fuller

The New York Times

Where have all the children gone? That's what San Francisco has been asking itself lately, says Thomas Fuller. The city used to be alive with children and families, but they've become increasingly rare since the technology boom. Today, San Francisco has the lowest percentage of children of any big US city: just 13% of its residents are under the age of 18, compared with 21% in New York, and an average of 23% across America. The city has roughly the same number of dogs as children, and in many areas "pet grooming shops seem more common than schools". For every 100 apartments sold in the city at market rate, the San Francisco school district expects to enrol just one extra pupil. Walking through the growing number of neighbourhoods colonised by employees of Google, Twitter and other tech firms, you'd think "life started at 22 and ended somewhere around 40". San Francisco is trying to make itself more family-friendly. It has invested millions in upgrading its parks, and last month became the first US city to require employers to offer six weeks of fully paid leave for new parents. But its prohibitive housing costs suggest it's likely to remain a place for the young, single and rich. The question is, can such a "one-dimensional" place retain its allure and vibrancy?

GERMANY

We're too nice:
time to go for
the US jugular

Der Spiegel
(Hamburg)

It's not just China that Donald Trump has in his sights over trade; Germany is in the firing line too, says Jan Fleischhauer. The new US president is upset that Americans happily drive imported German cars, yet we Germans don't reciprocate. Since there's zero chance of German drivers exchanging their BMWs and Audis for Chevrolets, he says he'll slap a stiff 35% tariff on our car imports to even things up. But two can play that game. It just happens that the most valuable US companies aren't carmakers; they're giant technology firms such as Apple, Google, Amazon and Facebook – all hugely profitable in Europe, and therefore vulnerable. Apple pays less than 2% corporate tax for its sales in Europe, thanks to its “sweetheart” deal with Ireland, and there's plenty of scope for hitting it with a huge increase. You don't need “punitive” tariffs to make trouble for Facebook – we'd merely force it to observe existing German laws on protecting minors by imposing penalties on content that glorifies violence or incites crime. If the company carried on offending, it could be blocked. Draconian? Of course. But we Germans are far too “soft” for the new world that Trump is ushering in. “Do not hesitate... go for the jugular” is advice Trump gives in his book *Think Big*. We need to follow it.

INDIA

This sacred
tradition is a
load of bull

Livemint.com
(Delhi)

Appealing to tradition in a country like India can be dangerous, says Rajyasree Sen. And so it is proving in Tamil Nadu, where students, media folk and celebrities have been furiously protesting a recent court ban on *jallikattu* – the sport in which young men run with a stampeding bull and try to bring it to a stop. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now rushed to placate them by overturning the ban. But why should the degrading spectacle of a mob pulling the ears and tail of a terrified animal be reprimanded just because it's a Tamil tradition? Dowry, marital rape and honour killings are also Indian traditions: does that make them acceptable? Besides, this isn't just about sport, it's about reinforcing the old patriarchal and caste system – *jallikattu* is practised only by upper-caste men. In scrapping the ban Modi may have won new votes, but only at the cost of reinforcing old prejudices.



Jallikattu: a “degrading spectacle”

THE GAMBIA

The dictators'
club won, not
democracy

Independent Online (IOL)
(Durban)

There was dancing in the streets when The Gambia's long-time ruler, Yahya Jammeh, finally left for exile, says Azad Essa. He'd been digging in his heels after being soundly beaten in elections, but with troops in neighbouring Senegal poised to invade, he bowed to the inevitable. Bigwigs in the UN and the African Union were ecstatic. Democracy had triumphed, they tweeted: it's a signal to other African dictators that “their time is over”. Nonsense. There's nothing to rejoice about in this sorry story. Jammeh will never pay back the millions of dollars he looted before leaving; nor will he pay for his crimes against civilians, journalists and politicians. And he left because he was pressured to by his neighbours. But that didn't happen with Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, who refused to step down after losing elections in 2008, nor Burundi's Pierre Nkurunziza, whose contested decision to seek a third term in 2015 triggered widespread bloodshed. Both stayed because no one in the African Union or its regional bodies objected. Events in The Gambia merely confirm that power in Africa rests with cliques, not the people. “Democracy didn't win, but rather a man just got away with murder.”

Will Putin turn out to be the great peacemaker?

Russia's bombing of Aleppo may have been akin to war crimes, said *Le Monde* (Paris), but we should nevertheless applaud its efforts to bring Syria's warring parties together. The rebels have been gravely weakened by the city's fall, but so too, politically, has Syria's President Assad: his depleted forces could never have triumphed without Russia's help. And now that Vladimir Putin holds the upper hand with his ally, he and Turkey's President Erdogan are pushing for a peace deal; together with Iran, they sponsored two days of talks in Kazakhstan last week. The Turks persuaded the various rebel factions to attend, while Moscow practically forced the Syrian regime participants to sit at the same table with them – if only for the opening ceremony. The West was hardly represented: the new Trump administration had been invited, but having yet to clarify its aims, it declined. The outcome was modest: the co-sponsors will set up a trilateral body to enforce the ceasefire. Yet even that is progress of a sort – more than any UN-brokered talks in Geneva have achieved.

Russia is showing a new, flexible attitude, said Maxim A. Suchkov in *Al-Monitor* (Washington DC). It dropped its opposition to participation by the more militant rebels, and is cooperating closely with Turkey: jets from both countries have hammered Isis targets. It is also the first time it is showing anger at ceasefire violations by the Syrian regime, a sign Putin may be open to the idea of Assad standing down; doubtless one reason

the rebels have been participating. But that's enraged the Iranians, who have invested in keeping Assad in power, said Heshmat Alavi in *Al Arabiya English* (Dubai). The mullahs are alarmed at having to play second fiddle to Russia and Turkey, and terrified by the thought of a rapprochement between Russia and Trump's US, which could result in a deal “vastly” against their interests. The “harsh” reaction by Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, to the revelation that the US had been invited shows he thinks Putin is “throwing Iran under the bus”.

The test of success will be whether the ceasefire holds, said *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. A likely flashpoint is the Wadi Barada, a valley west of Damascus held by rebels, who have cut off the water supply to five million of the city's people and who regard the Syrian regime's efforts to dislodge them as a violation of the truce. If they're pushed out of the valley, the ceasefire will be dead. But if it holds, the Kazakhstan talks will strengthen the prospect of a settlement when negotiations resume in Geneva this month, said Martin Jay in *Daily Sabah* (Istanbul). We know what must be done. Now that Turkey has dropped its obsession with toppling Assad, it needs to convince the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia to do likewise; to stop pouring money into a “black hole”, with arms supplies to the rebels. And the UN and EU must outline a humanitarian and restructuring programme to enable the rebels to “swallow the bitter pill of defeat”.

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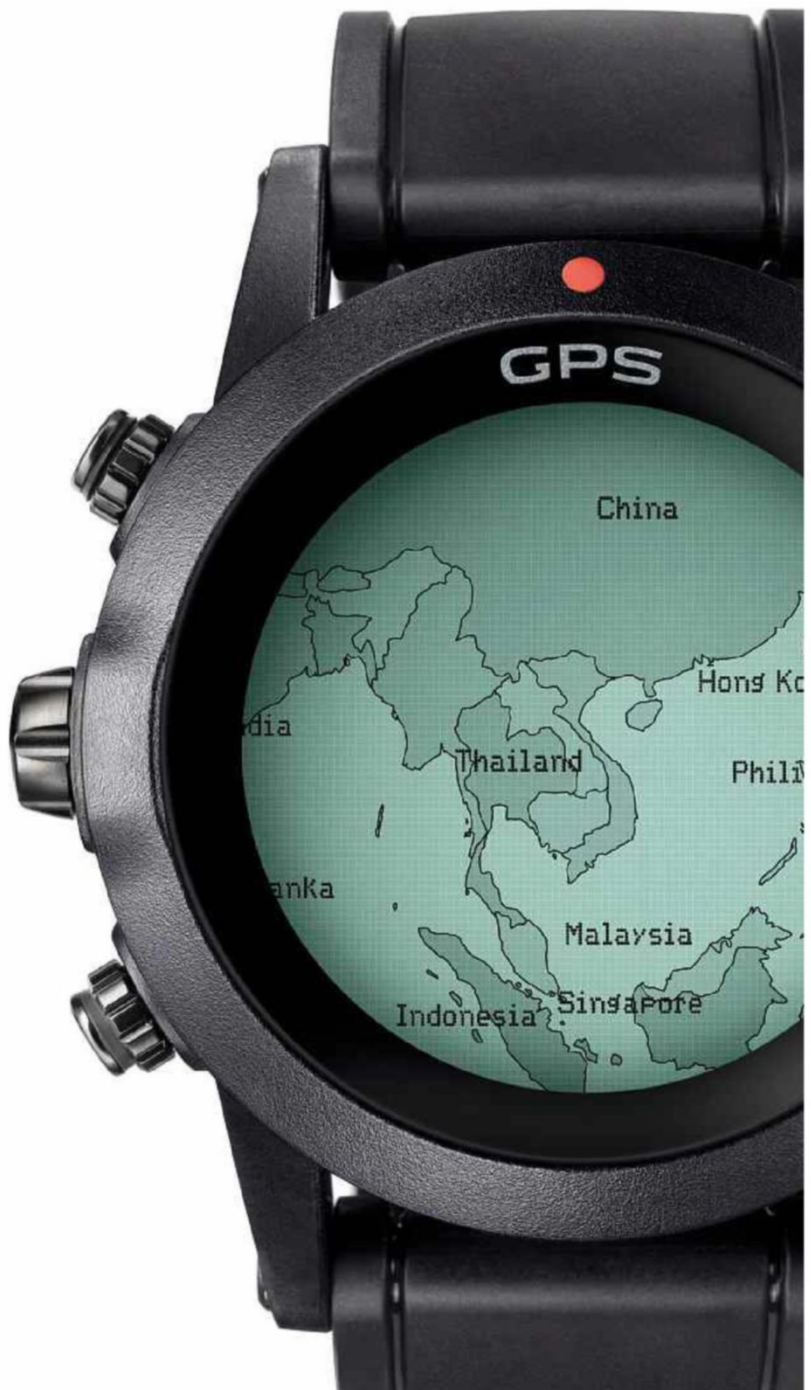
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What the scientists are saying...

The first pig-human embryos

A viable part-human, part-pig embryo has been created for the first time. According to a report in the journal *Cell*, researchers in the US injected human stem cells – the type capable of growing into almost any form of tissue – into more than 2,000 early pig embryos, then implanted them into surrogate sows. Around 185 of these hybrids continued to grow, until they were removed at 28 days – and crucially, the tiny proportion of human cells in them seemed to be functioning (about one in 10,000 of the cells were human, making the chimeras 0.01% human). Though such research raises many ethical concerns, the idea is that, eventually, scientists will be able to grow human organs in animals, to provide a ready supply for transplants.



A prospective vessel for a spare organ or two?

Prostate scans improve diagnosis

Survival rates for prostate cancer would improve if all men suspected of having the disease were given MRI scans, a new study suggests. Currently, men with clinical signs of cancer (such as raised PSA levels) are usually given a biopsy: more than 100,000 a year are carried out in the UK. But as a diagnostic test, this exploratory surgery is far from ideal. Biopsies can have painful, and sometimes serious side effects. Being based on samples taken from various parts of the prostate, they're also not very accurate: biopsies can miss the cancer altogether, and do not reliably distinguish between aggressive forms of the disease that require immediate treatment and those that require only monitoring. To test whether using advanced MP-MRI scans would be more effective, a team from University College London arranged for 576 men with signs of prostate cancer to be given both scans and biopsies. Their results suggest that if all patients were

given an initial MRI, one in four could safely be spared having an immediate biopsy; that using the scans could reduce rates of overdiagnosis – when patients are given treatments for cancers that later prove harmless – by 5%; and that carrying out biopsies guided by scan findings could lead to up to 18% more cases of clinically significant cancers being detected. “This is the biggest leap forward in prostate cancer diagnosis in decades, with the potential to save many lives,” said Angela Culhane, chief executive of Prostate Cancer UK.

Distress linked to cancer risk

People who suffer from anxiety or depression have an increased risk of dying from several forms of cancer, new research has suggested. The meta-analysis of 16 cohort studies looked at how the total 163,363 participants had rated their levels of mental distress at one point in time, and then followed up what happened to them

over the next ten years – including whether they'd died of cancer. The researchers found that people who had reported having the highest levels of distress were 32% more likely to have died from one of five types of cancer (including pancreatic cancer, and leukaemia) than those with the lowest levels. There is growing evidence that psychological stress has an impact on physical health. However, the findings do not mean that unhappiness causes cancer: it could be that people in mental distress eat unhealthily – and poor diet is linked to cancer; or that they don't attend cancer screenings, leading to delayed diagnoses; or that they fail to follow up their treatment. It could also be that people feel depressed because their general health is poor, which could, in turn, reduce their chances of surviving cancer.

Sex painful for many women

A sizeable minority of women experience pain during sex, according to a new study. The findings come from the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyle, which included 8,869 British women aged 16 to 74 interviewed between 2010 and 2012. Among the 6,669 who had been sexually active over the past year, 7.5% reported having painful sex (dyspareunia) for at least three months; a quarter of this group reported “morbid” pain – symptoms occurring always or very often for at least six months, and leaving them feeling distressed. The most likely to be affected were women aged 55 to 64 (10.4%), and 16 to 24 (9.5%). Among the women who weren't sexually active, 2.05% said they avoided sex because it was painful, or they feared it would be. The study didn't draw conclusions about the causes of painful sex but it did find that it was associated with reports of vaginal dryness and anxiety.

A unique 100 million-year-old “alien”

Scientists have discovered an insect so weird and rare, they have placed it in its own insect “order”. Found preserved in amber (pictured) down a mine in Myanmar, the tiny wingless creature has a triangular head and bulging eyes – features that lend it a slightly alarming “E.T.-like appearance”, and that have not been seen in any other species.

There are about one million known species of insects, which are categorised into 31 orders; *Aethiocarenum burmanicus* is so unusual it now sits alone in the newly created 32nd order. It is likely to remain alone there, as it lived some 100 million years ago and has long been extinct; and though one other ancient specimen of this species has been found (also preserved in amber in Myanmar), it resembles nothing living on Earth today, or ever seen before. “This insect has a number of features that just don't match those of any other insect species that I know,” said Dr George Poinar Jr, an emeritus professor of entomology at Oregon State University. It is believed to have been an omnivore that scuttled around in the bark of trees, feeding on mites, worms and fungi.



Rationing hip operations

The NHS is under such financial pressure that some hospitals may have to start rationing hip and knee replacements, an NHS official admitted last week. Three clinical commissioning groups in the West Midlands are drawing up plans to limit the operations to people who are in such agony that they cannot sleep or carry out daily tasks. They think this restriction will reduce the number of hip operations by 12%, and knee replacements by 19%. “Clearly, the NHS doesn't have unlimited resources,” Julie Wood, chief executive of the NHS Clinical Commissioners, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. “And it has to ensure that patients get the best possible care against a backdrop of spiralling demand and increasing financial pressures.” The Royal College of Surgeons has condemned the proposal as “alarming” and “arbitrary”.

May in Washington: a dangerous liaison?

He called her “my Maggie”, and held her by the hand. He assured her that he was “100% behind Nato” (days after declaring it obsolete) and reaffirmed his commitment to striking a trade deal with the post-Brexit UK. Theresa May and Donald Trump are an “oddly matched pair”, said Heather Stewart in *The Observer*, but the flamboyant billionaire and the vicar’s daughter seem to have found surprising common ground during their meeting at the White House last week. At a press conference, the normally abrasive president was calm and even playful. And over their private lunch, the conversation was said – by Downing Street – to have been “warm, free-flowing and unscripted”. Trump declared that Brexit was going to be “a fantastic thing” for the UK, and that “our relationship has never been stronger”. He showed off the bust of Winston Churchill that Barack Obama had removed, now restored to the Oval Office; and told the PM that when he comes to Britain for a state visit later this year, “I want to see you first”.

And then May found out “what it’s like to be Tangoed”, said Alex Massie in *The Spectator*. No sooner had she left the building than her new friend signed an executive order banning the residents of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the US temporarily, and Syrian refugees indefinitely; and overnight, her visit – “hailed a ‘triumph’ by friendly newspapers” – became a liability. As anger grew around the world, in Britain more than 1.78 million people signed a petition calling for Trump’s state visit to be cancelled; and the PM’s critics demanded that she denounce the man she had just wooed. Had May not been in such an unseemly rush to be the first foreign leader to visit Trump at the White House, she’d have seen this coming. Allies need to be reliable: the new US president has done nothing to suggest that he might be a partner this, or indeed any, country could rely on.

The PM no doubt thought she was “doing her pragmatic duty” by going to the White House, said *The Guardian*. But in currying favour with Trump, a president she cannot control, she’s in danger of making the same mistake Tony Blair did with George W. Bush. When Trump was merely a candidate, she condemned his anti-Muslim plans as “divisive, unhelpful and wrong”. She must stand alongside Britain’s allies, in France, Canada, Germany



Trump with May: “my Maggie”

and elsewhere, and speak as plainly now. It is not in Britain’s interest “to be, or to be seen as, a lackey of possibly the worst president the US” has ever had.

Yet there is something hysterical about the current outcry, said *The Daily Telegraph*. If the British government does not like US policy (and evidently, in this case it does not), it should let its feelings be known – through diplomacy, not the kind of “frenzied virtue-signalling and phoney outrage” we’ve seen this week. To snub Trump by ripping up his invitation would be a “monumental exercise in national self-harm”, agreed Robert Hardman in the *Daily Mail*. And those who demand it are being “wilfully naive”. Trump’s policy was a manifesto promise; he is doing what he was elected to do. Moreover, Obama also restricted travel to the US from these same countries. It’s also worth noting that six of the countries on that list ban Israelis. As for the claim that it’s wrong to drag the Queen into this, she’s had far worse visitors foisted on her – including the Romanian tyrant Nicolae Ceausescu – and she has taken them in her stride. She knows it’s a “mucky old world”. May’s job is to represent our national interest, and it’s in that interest to have the US on our side.

“Overnight, her visit – ‘hailed a triumph by friendly newspapers’ – became a liability”

Brexit is the problem, said *The Economist*. May rushed to Washington because she is desperate to sign a trade deal with the US that can be closed as soon as Brexit takes place. The irony is

that leaving the EU was supposed to give Britain more control, to restore its autonomy and independence. Instead, it is forcing our leaders to prostrate themselves before a foreign ruler they find odious, a ruthless dealmaker who knows he has the upper hand. Britain, post-Brexit, finds itself in a strange place, agreed Anne Applebaum in *The Washington Post*. Isolated, and desperate for trading partners and political friends, it is rushing into the arms of a president who is “drifting away” from transatlantic institutions. Searching for a positive message about Britain’s future at Davos, May lit upon the idea of a “global Britain” that is an advocate of global free markets, and the “rule-based global order”. But if these are British ideals, why is Britain leaving the wealthiest free trade zone in the world, and cosyng up to a protectionist for whom the international rules mean nothing? She may or may not be able to strike a trade deal with the US, but while Britain is tied to the US president, her broader vision is doomed.

Pick of the week’s *Gossip*

Donald Trump’s aides confused the Prime Minister of Britain with a retired porn star. Theresa May’s name was misspelt three times on the official White House schedule for her visit last week. Spelt without an “h”, it is the stage name of a 50-year-old glamour model who once starred in a film called *Whitehouse: The Sex Video*. Teresa May (pictured) is mistaken for the Tory leader



so often that her Twitter profile reads: “I am a UK glamour model, not the prime minister.”

As for Theresa May, back in 2000 she told Radio 4’s John Humphrys that she sometimes received strange requests because of the confusion: “We do get the [odd] telephone call from people wanting to book me to do programmes and so forth which perhaps are not about politics, let’s just put it like that”.

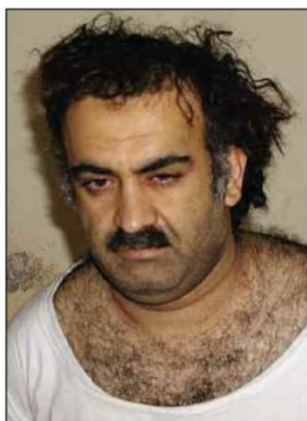
Prince Charles had his own hand towels brought in to save him having to use a hot-air dryer at a community centre. The heir to the throne – who is known to be fastidious about personal hygiene – was on a visit to the Mountsorrel and Rothley Heritage Centre in

Leicestershire last week. After travelling on a restored steam train and visiting the museum, he availed himself of the facilities. Aides had already requested that a section of the lavatories should be cordoned off, and brought along some clean towels from Clarence House, explaining that the Prince doesn’t like hot-air dryers. Studies have shown that the dryers pick up germs from around the room and blow them around. “Staff wanted it to be perfect”, said a spokesman for the heritage centre, and were “more than happy” for the Prince’s own hand towels to be used.

Torture: does it work?

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, President Bush took the “fateful decision” to allow the use of “enhanced interrogation techniques”, said *The Times*. This meant, essentially, authorising forms of torture that didn’t cause death or organ failure: waterboarding (simulated drowning), beatings, confinement in coffin-sized boxes, painful stress positions, sleep deprivation, and the sexual humiliation of suspects. Today, the consensus in Washington, and across the free world, is that the Bush administration’s turn to what vice-president Dick Cheney called the “dark side” was “morally unacceptable, strategically self-defeating” and “of limited, if any, use”. So it is “troubling” that Donald Trump declared in his first TV interview as president that he believes torture “absolutely” works. He said that he would defer to his defence secretary, James Mattis, and the director of the CIA (both of whom oppose it); but that if his staff sought to use torture, he would “work for that end”.

Trump is clearly not swayed by the moral arguments, said Joshua Stewart in *The Daily Telegraph*. So it is important that we emphasise “the business side of the issue – which is that torture simply doesn’t work”. It has consistently failed to produce decent intelligence, as the Senate’s five-year inquiry into CIA methods



Mohammed: 183 sessions

confirmed. Tortured suspects tend to release “torrents of useless and made-up information in an attempt to appease their captors”. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the 9/11 mastermind, who was waterboarded 183 times, admitted: “I gave a lot of false information in order to satisfy what I believed the interrogators wished to hear.” Abu Zubaydah, another al-Qa’eda operative, was “broken” under torture, and invented a “kaleidoscope” of plots and fabricated names. One intelligence official said: “We spent millions of dollars chasing false alarms.”

“Torture isn’t merely ineffective,” said Zack Beauchamp on Vox. “It’s also vicious and deeply corrosive.” Another Senate committee found that legal authorisation for CIA torture led directly to the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib. The CIA continues to insist that enhanced interrogation has been helpful in some cases, said Jason Burke in *The Guardian*. But even if you accept that – and the Senate inquiry rejected it outright – torture has “immense costs” that clearly “outweigh any tactical gain”. America’s image suffered “massive” damage as a result of George W. Bush’s decision. Trump may believe that “torture works”. “It is unlikely he has the slightest idea of how expensive that thinking may prove to be.”

Wood burners: poisoning our air

London achieved an unwanted record last month, said Robin McKie in *The Observer*. Air pollution in the capital reached its highest level since the current system of measurement was introduced five years ago. But here’s the strange thing: the toxic smog reached its peak on a Sunday night – a time when most people are out of their cars and pollution is usually at a low ebb. So how did levels of nitrogen oxides and particulates – tiny specks of soot that can get into our lungs, blood and even brains – reach such unprecedented levels?



London smog in 1952

Diesel fumes and lack of wind were partly to blame, said *New Scientist*. But scientists at King’s College London also identified a “surprising culprit”: half the particulates came from wood smoke. Under the Clean Air Act of 1956, urban householders are banned from burning wood in open fires; but there is a loophole that allows logs to be burnt in appliances that meet environmental guidelines. These include most modern wood burning stoves, as well as biomass boilers – both of which are widely seen as eco-friendly. Sales of

wood burning stoves have soared in the past decade: 175,000 units were bought in Britain last year. But it is now clear that these stoves are “highly polluting”. A recent Danish study found that even the cleanest wood burner produces 500,000 particulates per cubic centimetre of smoke – compared to 1,000 per cm³ in the fumes of a modern lorry. In Copenhagen, just 16,000 wood burners produce more PM_{2.5} particulates (the most dangerous kind) during winter than traffic in the Danish capital produces all year round.

This isn’t just an urban problem, said Ross Clark in *The Daily Mail*. Last year, 39 UK towns and cities exceeded the official “safe” levels for PM_{2.5} emissions, including Saltash in Cornwall and Chepstow in Monmouthshire. The effects of this pollution can be devastating: in children, it has been shown to impair lung and brain development. Yet the loophole for wood burners remains wide open, and the Government is still offering generous subsidies to householders who switch to biomass boilers. Thanks to old science and bad policy, “British homeowners are being encouraged to poison our own air”.

Wit & Wisdom

“Without music, life would be a mistake.”
Friedrich Nietzsche, quoted in The Sunday Telegraph

“A man who has committed a mistake and doesn’t correct it is committing another.”
Confucius, quoted in The Times

“No man ever listened himself out of a job.”
Calvin Coolidge, quoted in The Daily Telegraph

“I don’t remember anybody’s name. Why do you think the ‘darling’ thing got started?”
Zsa Zsa Gabor, quoted on BBC News online

“Everything has already been said, but since nobody was listening, we have to start again.”
André Gide, quoted on The Browser

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
Anthropologist Margaret Mead, quoted in The Times

“You do not get a man’s most effective criticism until you provoke him. Severe truth is expressed with some bitterness.”
Henry David Thoreau, quoted on Forbes.com

“People always ask me how long it takes to do my hair. I don’t know, I’m never there.”
Dolly Parton, quoted in Vogue

“All looks yellow to the jaundiced eye.”
Alexander Pope, quoted in The Washington Post

Statistics of the week

More than 40% of children have their own mobile phone by the time they leave primary school.

The Times

Ten drones were involved in “category A” near misses with passenger jets at Heathrow last year.

The Daily Telegraph

Tennis: the two best players of all time

It wasn't meant to be Roger Federer, said Martin Samuel in the Daily Mail. Not at the age of 35; not after a six-month layoff while he recovered from knee surgery; not in this "golden age for men's tennis". But on Sunday, the Swiss player confounded the doubters to beat Rafael Nadal and win the Australian Open. It was his 18th Grand Slam, four more than any other male player. Federer's claim to greatness has "never been in question", said Kevin Mitchell in The Guardian. But this victory confirmed that he is "peerless in the history of his sport". Even now, he is playing remarkable tennis: "only the freakishly powerful Ivo Karlovic hit more than Federer's 108 aces" in Melbourne; and "only Kei Nishikori bettered his 21 winning returns off serve".

It goes without saying that Federer is a player of "great beauty", who turns tennis into "something resembling advanced choreography", said Matthew Syed in The Times. Less appreciated, however, are his extraordinary "resolve and self-belief". Since 2012, the year of his last Grand Slam win, he had been urged to "hang up his racket". Yet he kept going, because he believed he could "triumph once again". He tried everything, adjusting his technique, "with all the accompanying



Serena Williams: leads the field

rigmarole and agitation, in the noble cause of finding a fresh edge". On Sunday, Federer finally prevailed – joining the likes of Jack Nicklaus, who won the Masters at 46, and Bernard Hopkins, who unified boxing's middleweight titles at 39.

Serena Williams has earned her own place in that lineup, said Bryan Armen Graham in The Guardian. Just one month younger than Federer, she beat her sister, Venus, last Saturday to win her 23rd singles Grand Slam – finally overtaking Steffi Graf's record for the most majors in the professional era. Like Federer, she is now undoubtedly "the best there has ever been". Venus, a year older, made it to the final as the oldest player in the top 300; she defeated opponents barely half her age, despite battling the autoimmune disease that has "hamstrung" her game for years. But, as in so many previous matches between the sisters, she was no match for Serena. Nor is anyone else, said Oliver Brown in The Sunday Telegraph. "Where, exactly, is the competition?" Maria Sharapova is serving a 15-month doping ban; Angelique Kerber, who briefly "usurped" Serena as World No. 1, failed to win a single tour event during her 20 weeks at the top. Serena is "so far out on her own" that her rivals "should feel ashamed".

The FA Cup: victorious minnows

"Don't mess with the world's oldest club competition," said Henry Winter in The Times. That was the moral of the FA Cup's fourth round last weekend, when Championship clubs were humbled by minnows from the lowly Vanarama National League: first Lincoln City beat Brighton and Hove Albion 3-1; then, the next day, Sutton United shocked Leeds United with a 1-0 victory. Sutton sit 16th in the National League, a staggering 83 places below Leeds. Their stadium, Gander Green Lane, boasts "two bacon roll concessions and a mix of low structures, some resembling bus shelters"; one of the clearances on Sunday disappeared into a nearby park, the other "rattled a Portaloo". For six months, the side have had to put up with a leak in the changing room ceiling; now, some of their FA Cup windfall will be spent on fixing it. With average wages of just £500 a week, many players have to take a day job: captain Jamie Collins works as a builder. But it would be wrong to underestimate the club, as



Sutton's Jamie Collins

Leeds manager Garry Monk discovered: he fielded a weakened team and was "deservedly punished".

Liverpool walked into the same trap, said Ian Ladyman in the Daily Mail. The team for their FA Cup tie against Championship club Wolves wasn't merely "under-strength" – it was a side of "prospects and fringe players". So it was no surprise when they were beaten 2-1. Jürgen Klopp, the Reds' manager, is preoccupied with his team's title challenge. But a club that have won just one trophy in the past decade can't afford to pooh-pooh the FA Cup – they desperately need silverware, and any will do. Don't blame Klopp, said Chris Bascombe in The Daily Telegraph. Blame the FA's packed winter schedule.

The Wolves game was Liverpool's tenth in a month; at such a hectic time, managers have no choice but to write off certain games. The Premier League, with its TV money and Champions League places, takes priority – the FA Cup is "collateral damage".

Reading Boris Becker's tongue

Poker players are always on the lookout for an opponent's "tell", said Mike Atherton in The Times – for an unconscious, almost imperceptible tic that gives away the strength of the opponent's hand. And occasionally the same occurs in the world of sport, as the US tennis star Andre Agassi discovered in the course of his encounters with the great German tennis player Boris Becker.

The first time Agassi came up against Becker – in 1988 – he lost the match. He lost the next one too, and the one after that. But after that, in a decade-long rivalry which "became increasingly personal and bitter", Agassi dominated "time and again", losing just once to his nemesis. His secret? He had figured out Becker's "tell", enabling him to handle his "booming" serve.



Becker lines up a wide serve

All he had to do was look at Becker's mouth, said Emily Benammar in the Herald Sun (Melbourne). Agassi noticed that just before the German tossed the ball, he'd stick out his tongue. If it went to the left of his mouth, he'd serve wide; if it stayed in the middle, he'd serve straight. But now that he'd found out how to nullify Becker's greatest strength, Agassi had a new problem: he couldn't let Becker know he'd been rumbled. So he would let Becker win the odd service point, to allay his suspicions. Even then, Becker had a nagging feeling something was up. But it was only when he retired, in 1999, that Agassi finally confessed. "I used to go home and tell my wife, 'It's like he reads my mind,'" Becker told Agassi. "Little did I know you were reading my tongue."

Sporting headlines

Horse racing Many Clouds, the winner of the 2015 Grand National, died from bleeding on the lung. It collapsed during the Cotswold Chase at Cheltenham.

Football In the Premier League, Chelsea drew 1-1 with Liverpool to extend their lead at the top of the table to nine points. Watford beat Arsenal 2-1. Marseille bought West Ham forward Dimitri Payet for £25m. Southampton signed Manolo Gabbiadini from Napoli for £14m.

Boxing In the first loss of his professional career, Carl Frampton was defeated on points by Léo Santa Cruz.



“As a boy, I picked up
an extra paper round
in Petersfield **to save
for flying lessons.**”

—Richard Pillans, *Boeing UK Chief Test Pilot*

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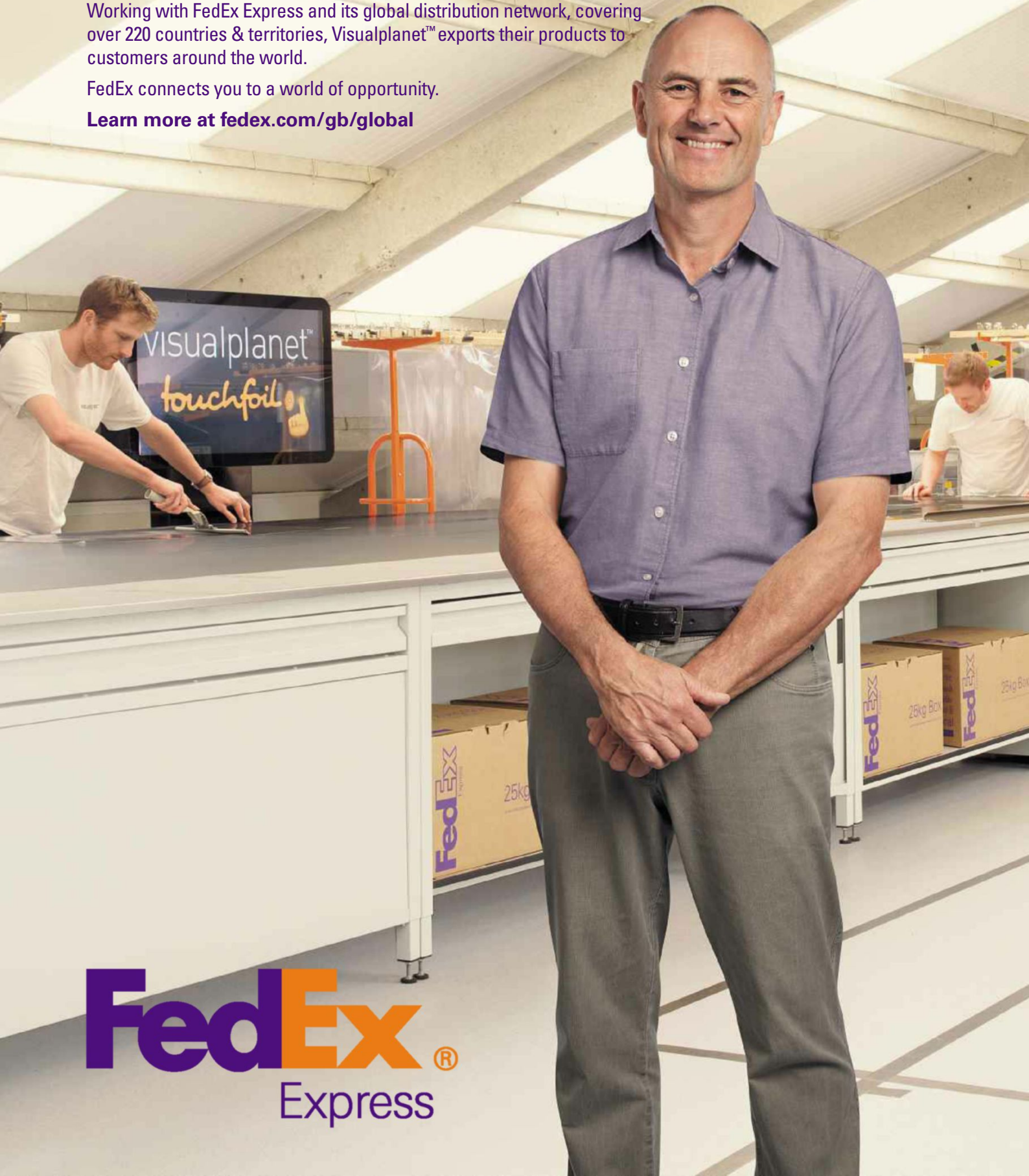
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Pick of the week's correspondence

Reagan and Thatcher

To The Times

Roger Boyes is right to point to Margaret Thatcher's influential, if often combative, relationship with Ronald Reagan as instructive for the Prime Minister as she meets President Trump. Theresa May, however, has some catching up to do if she wants to exert similar influence on the new president.

Thatcher first met Reagan in 1975, six years before he came to power. Reagan never forgot that she took him seriously while the Labour government palmed him off to a junior minister who condoned foreign office officials visibly laughing at him. The two sat down again in 1978 and thereafter maintained a regular correspondence. By the time they met as heads of government in 1981, they already shared a personal rapport and a strong sense of a conservative mission.

As much as sentiment and common history, the Anglo-American nuclear, naval and intelligence relationships always earn Britain a hearing in the Oval Office. But once there, every issue has to be argued on its merits. Thatcher often leveraged her personal relationship with Reagan to Britain's benefit. That May begins her relationship with Trump from a cold start, not to mention that her joint chief of staff, Fiona Hill, tweeted "Trump is a chump" during the campaign, makes her job just that little bit harder.

Professor Richard Aldous,
author of Reagan and Thatcher: The Difficult Relationship, New York

Irish border no barrier

To The Daily Telegraph

As the discussion on Brexit develops, we increasingly hear that there is to be "no return to the borders of the past" in Northern Ireland. On a hot summer's day before the Troubles, I hiked from Northern Ireland to the Irish Republic. I tramped along a minor road until I reached the Republic's border post: a barrier with a little wooden sentry box. There was not a sound except buzzing bees and the lap of waves on the shore of Carlingford Lough. Without

Exchange of the week

In a state over Trump's visit

To The Guardian

Suzanne Moore states that "the British state reserves its pomp and pageantry for those with shared values. To do this for Trump is not simply appeasing, but legitimising his regime. This is not just embarrassing for the Queen but for every decent citizen." I suspect many "decent citizens" might have had a problem with repeated "legitimising" of the Saudi and other Arab monarchies, or the Chinese Stalinist dictatorship, or of Ceausescu's Romania. I suggest the Queen can put up with much worse than a democratically elected president, regardless of how odious he is.

Matthew Heaney, *Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

To The Times

The Queen acts on the Government's advice, and the Government protects the Queen from being drawn into political controversy. That convention has worked very well through the 65 years of Her Majesty's reign. But it is being put under strain because of the ill-judged advice to the Queen to rush out an invitation to President Trump for an early state visit, to suit the timing of the Prime Minister's visit to Washington. There is no precedent for a US president paying a state visit to this country in their first year. Most have had to wait till their third. Is Trump specially deserving of this exceptional honour? It would have been far wiser to wait to see what sort of president he would turn out to be before advising the Queen to invite him.

Now the Queen is put in a very difficult position. The Government needs to move fast to protect Her Majesty from the growing controversy, as shown by the overwhelming response to the petition. I suggest that No. 10 makes clear to the White House that the state visit will take place later in the presidency, and that the president is invited here this year for an official visit, i.e. political talks with the Prime Minister and a courtesy call on the Queen. Not an easy manoeuvre, but the consequence of having rushed to a premature invitation for political effect.

Lord Ricketts, *GCMG, GCVO, permanent undersecretary at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 2006-10, and chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee 2000-01*

warning, a uniformed arm rose up from the long grass beside the sentry box and a hand motioned me to pass through. That was my entry into the Republic of Ireland.

Since 1921, any change to make the border "harder" than that has come from Dublin. As IRA murders were deemed "political", only a handful of terrorists were ever extradited. Only once during the 38 years of the Troubles was the border closed: not by the British Army or Royal Ulster Constabulary, but by the Irish Republic. This measure was implemented in order to prevent the spread of a disease afflicting cattle. Apparently none of the 3,500 human killings was reason enough for such an action.

Charles Teggart, *Bangor, County Down*

Defying the whips

To The Times

The stated intention of some MPs to defy their party's whip would be laudable if members intended to vote with their conscience, but the overwhelming message from MPs is about doing as their constituents wish, which is not what they are in the Commons for: parliamentarians are not advocates acting on instructions. Edmund Burke MP explained it lucidly when, in 1774, he told his Bristol constituents: "Your representative owes you... his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion."

The Article 50 vote should be about what is

right for Britain, not about the majority verdict in any member's constituency; that is, assuming members' minds are on more than just retaining their seats.

Damian Warburton, *Bedford*

Clock-watching doctors

To The Times

Am I the only retired GP who remembers providing a 24-hour service to patients, performing minor surgery, carrying out home visits, looking after patients in community hospitals, running minor injuries sessions and a host of other services that were convenient to patients, and not all directly remunerated?

Luckily, there are still some practices which do provide excellent care for their flock, and I am fortunate enough to be cared for by one. Many, I fear, are cared for by clock-watchers, who have forgotten that they are following a vocation, not just a job. Despite a handsome salary, their limited remit forces local A&E departments to attempt to fill in the gaps, which is both inappropriate and a waste of precious resources.

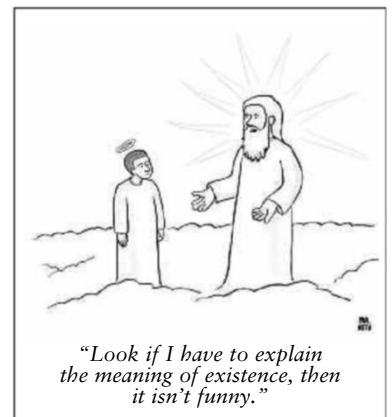
Dr John Drewer, *Newton Ferrers, Devon*

Seriously confused

To The Times

During the election campaign it was said that Mr Trump's opponents took him literally, but not seriously, while his supporters took him seriously, but not literally. Given that Mr Trump has spent the first week of his presidency implementing his election promises, it looks as if his opponents and his supporters were both wrong – or is it both right?

Mark Rowe, *Cheam, Surrey*



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Review of reviews: Books

Book of the week

The Way of the Strangers

by Graeme Wood

Allen Lane 352pp £20

The Week Bookshop £17

Repulsion and ridicule are two common reactions to Isis, said Christina Lamb in *The Sunday Times*. Yet according to the US journalist Graeme Wood, both are inadequate (if understandable). Instead, he claims, we should strive to understand the group's "theological underpinnings". In *The Way of the Strangers*, Wood sets out to do this by talking to some of Isis's "chief apologists". Though he doesn't go to Raqqa – such a trip would "almost certainly be fatal" – he tracks down sympathisers in Cairo, London, Melbourne and Tokyo. Generally, Isis ideologues are happy to talk to him, offering him pizza, or lamb, while "smilingly" describing the "coming apocalypse". Wood emerges convinced that it "makes no sense" to dismiss Isis's followers as thugs who use religion as a fig leaf. On the contrary, many are clever, and most are genuine believers who strive to follow the Prophet Mohammed's teachings "in the strictest way". This is an "important" work. Isis may be losing much of its territory, but as the "zeal" of Wood's interviewees makes "scarily clear", its military defeat "will not be the end".



All the evidence suggests that those who travel to fight for it are inspired by a coherent, almost respectable, form of Islam.

As well as being "sobering and gripping", this book also "ranks as the funniest yet written on the Islamic State", said Tom Holland in the *New Statesman*. In Australia, Wood visits Musa Cerantonio, the country's "highest-profile Islamic State sympathiser", who interjects appreciative comments about Monty Python and Stephen Fry into a discussion of "immolation as a method of execution". Though darkly comic, the scene is also "terrifying" because, as Wood makes clear, views not unlike Cerantonio's are shared by "large numbers of Muslims across the world". This "revelatory" book reminds us of something that ought to be obvious: the Islamic State is Islamic. "Very Islamic."

Once upon a time in the East

by Xiaolu Guo

Chatto & Windus 336pp £16.99

The Week Bookshop £13.99

Ever since Jung Chang's *Wild Swans* became an international bestseller in the early 1990s, memoirs of exiled Chinese women and their "wrenching journeys" from East to West have been one of publishing's "holy grails", said Richard Lloyd Parry in *The Times*. The latest addition to the genre is *Once upon a time in the East*, novelist Xiaolu Guo's account of her turbulent upbringing in southeast China and her later move to Britain. This, however, is no rehash of *Wild Swans*: Guo is a "bolder, angrier" figure than Chang, who came from a privileged Party background. Guo, by contrast, was raised mainly by her impoverished grandparents, and as an "undesired girl", was always "the last to be fed, educated and given love". In adolescence, she was "first groped, then raped" by a family friend, who told her: "Stop crying! Every girl has to go through this". But, desperate to make a mark, she escaped to Beijing, where she studied film, and later to Britain, where she forged a successful writing career, publishing a well-received novel, *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary For Lovers*, in 2007.

This "extraordinary memoir" will only enhance its author's "burgeoning" reputation, said Ian Critchley in *The Sunday Times*. Though "often shocking in its descriptions of violence and deprivation", Guo also writes with "wry humour", particularly about her early disillusionment with Britain, which she expected – from watching *The Forsyte Saga* – to be full of "fancy houses and rich people dressed in elegant costumes riding about on white horses". Unlike many other memoirists of exile, Guo "neither romanticises her past nor glorifies her new home", said Megan Walsh in the *New Statesman*. Written in an "audacious, restless" style, this is a work of "fiery, artistic defiance".



Novel of the week

4321

by Paul Auster

Faber 864pp £20

The Week Bookshop £15

Paul Auster's latest novel tells the story of Archie Ferguson, an American of Jewish-Russian heritage born, like his creator, in Newark, New Jersey, in 1947. At first, *4321* seems "engagingly old-fashioned in spirit", said Blake Morrison in *The Guardian*. But this being Auster, it "can't be that simple" – and soon enough, it veers off into experimentation. Auster lays out four parallel lives for his protagonist, all resembling each other but differing in certain details. Odd that he should make his four Fergusons so similar – all are baseball-obsessed, Paris-loving writers – yet even so, this is an engrossing, expansive work.

While Auster appears to be trying new things, his ego looms as large as ever, said Tim Martin in *The Daily Telegraph*. "As the books goes on, the sense grows of being drawn further into the Austerverse", a strange place "where everything orbits the author's self-regard". The sheer level of detail, too, is a problem, said Anthony Cummins in *The Observer*. There are lengthy disquisitions on, for instance, a "first taste of couscous" and parallel parking. "You can fill up 864 pages pretty quickly writing like this."

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Theatre: Us/Them

Dorfman, National Theatre, London SE1 (020-7452 3000). Until 18 February Running time: 1hr ★★★★★

A boy and a girl are drawing a series of square shapes on the floor. They look like battlements. Or perhaps a map. "These are the outbuildings," says the girl. And then: "That's where the toddlers were". Carly Wijs' two-handed play, first seen last year at Edinburgh, and performed by Belgian theatre company Bronks, is – quite remarkably – a family show about the 2004 Beslan school siege and massacre in North Ossetia, said Claire Allfree in The Daily Telegraph. Always compelling, at times heart-breaking, and at others

mordantly funny, it "provides a child-sized view, beautifully recreated here", on an atrocity in which at least 330 of the 1,100-plus hostages were killed – among them 186 children.

A terror attack by Chechen separatists targeting schoolchildren sounds like an unlikely basis for a piece of theatre, said Paul Taylor in The Independent – especially one recommended for audiences from the age of 12 upwards. However, "any misgivings about potential insensitivity or exploitation" are quickly and decisively allayed by this "startlingly powerful" show. Wijs' "masterstroke" is to imagine the ordeal entirely from the perspective of two of the children (the only characters we see), played here by young adult actors Gytha Parmentier and Roman Van Houtven. In "expertly choreographed" performances, the



Parmentier and Van Houtven: "expertly choreographed" performances

pair "capture the moment-to-moment intentness of childhood without ever condescending to the characters by being cloyingly cute". Looping string like a cat's cradle across the stage, the pair poignantly convey the horror of the school gymnasium being rigged with explosives, said Patricia Nicol in The Sunday Times. Most upsetting of all is their description of the delicate procedure by which the guards pass between themselves control of the foot-activated detonator.

What's most "remarkable" about this "special" show is the lack of "sentimentality, emotion

or Hollywood hype", said Ann Treneman in The Times. There are a few moments when it all gets a little confusing (multiple possible endings are presented), but it soon sorts itself out. This is "inventive storytelling at its best" – and it "stays with you".

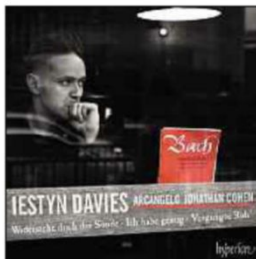
The week's other opening

Educating Rita Bolton Octagon (01204-520661) until 11 Feb, then Derby Theatre (01332-593939) 17 Feb-11 Mar

Elizabeth Newman's classy production of the Willy Russell play has an "imposing visual impact", cleverly evoking academia as a "seductively erudite alternative universe". Great performances, too, from Jessica Baglow and David Birrell (Guardian).

CDs of the week: three new releases

Bach: Cantatas 54, 82 and 170 – Iestyn Davies, Arcangelo, Jonathan Cohen
Hyperion
£13



The harpsichordist and conductor Jonathan Cohen and his first-rate period ensemble Arcangelo have shaped this engrossing disc, of three Bach cantatas and two instrumental sinfonias, around the British countertenor Iestyn Davies. And although it is early in the year, says Fiona Maddocks in The Observer, it will surely prove a contender for one of the records of 2017. Davies' "singular gifts of open-hearted expression, reined in to perfection and with no excess or indulgence, are expertly balanced" by Arcangelo's soloists.

It is an "ideal and rewarding" programme for Davies' beautifully vivid countertenor, said Hugh Canning in The Sunday Times. If his German is "not entirely idiomatic, his words are invariably clear, and he relishes the interplay" with the soloists; oboe in the "ravishing opening" aria of BWV 170, and organ in *Wer Sünde tut, der ist vom Teufel* in BWV 54. "Best of all is the rapt singing" of *Schlummert ein* (Go to sleep), in the well-known BWV 82 (*Ich habe genug*). "A lovely disc."

Eliza Carthy & The Wayward Band: Big Machine
Topic
£9.99



The "last exhalation" of contemporary folk collective Bellowhead in 2016 has left a gap in the market for a "full-on Brit-folk big band", said David Honigmann in the FT. And it seems Eliza Carthy is the woman to fill it. *Big Machine* is Carthy's "best in years – a varied whirl of Manchester ballads", swaying funky compositions, such as *Hug You Like A Mountain* with Teddy Thompson, and "Weimar oompah", as on *The Fitter's Song* and *Great Grey Back*.

This is the kind of folk album that will "appeal to people who think they don't like folk", said Clive Davis in The Sunday Times. There's a hint of Bellowhead about the "kaleidoscopic mini big-band arrangements", but Carthy's commanding voice, and her embrace of everything from the "relatively decorous" rapping of MC Dizraeli (on *You Know Me*), to "raucous folk-rock and subtle Moorish rhythms", give this "captivating" record "a rambunctious character all of its own. Past and present, innovation and tradition, are woven into a glorious tapestry".

The xx: I See You
Young Turks
£11



From the first moments of the opening track *Dangerous* – a "blast of dancehallsque synthesised horns" over a thudding bass beat – the Mercury prize-winning group's third album manages "to sound both exactly like The xx and unlike anything they have done before", said Alexis Petridis in The Guardian. Sure, the lyrical mood remains "yearning and fragile". But the band's sound has become broader and richer, more adventurous and dance-influenced, and the results are thrilling.

It feels like the Londoners have "relaxed" into their success, said Greg Cochran on NME.com. This is a new, tactile, self-confident version of The xx, and much of the music is warm, joyful even. Say *Something Loving* is lush and glowing. And the lead single, *On Hold*, which samples the 1980s hitmakers Hall and Oates, is going to "sound huge in the festival fields" come summer. It all feels like "the moment where The xx stop glancing shyly at their reflection and confront themselves in the mirror. What they discover is infectious".

Stars reflect the overall quality of reviews and our own independent assessment (4 stars=don't miss; 1 star=don't bother)

Hacksaw Ridge

Dir: Mel Gibson
2hrs 19mins (15)

A gruelling but gripping war movie

★★★

Having long been out of favour in Hollywood, Mel Gibson has found a perfect directorial comeback vehicle in *Hacksaw Ridge*, said Robbie Collin in The Daily Telegraph. This “fantastically moving” WWII movie tells the true story of Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist from rural Virginia whose religious beliefs precluded him carrying a weapon in battle. He did, however, serve as a medic in the fighting against the Japanese at Okinawa, where he saved dozens of his wounded comrades. The film’s first half is a bit “soapy”, as we watch Doss (Andrew Garfield) bid farewell to his winsome sweetheart (Teresa Palmer) and then endure the traditional sadism at boot camp, said Phil de Semlyen in Empire. Yet the battle scenes are superb. Well, yes, but be warned, said Geoffrey Macnab in The Independent, the director has lost none of his “fascination with violence”: there are endless shots of soldiers having limbs blown off, or being torched by flamethrowers. It’s decidedly odd to find a film about a pacifist that is quite so in love with violence, said Richard Lawson in Vanity Fair. Yet in the context of Doss’s extraordinary courage and humanity, it does in fact prove “incredibly effective”.



Denial

Dir: Mick Jackson
1hr 49mins (12A)

True-life drama with Timothy Spall

★★

How could anyone deny the Holocaust? Or more to the point, how do you prove it took place in the face of insidious pseudo-historical refutations? That’s the question at the heart of this “solid, satisfying” dramatisation of the late-1990s libel case in which the notorious Holocaust denier David Irving sued Penguin Books, and the American academic Deborah Lipstadt, for having accused him of falsifying history, said Allan Hunter in the Daily Express. Alas, though boasting a script by playwright David Hare, and an impressive cast that includes Rachel Weisz as Lipstadt, and an on-form Andrew Scott as her abrasive solicitor, *Denial* is a terribly unsubtle movie, said Tom Huddleston in Time Out. At one point, Lipstadt declares that her first name, Deborah, means “warrior” in Hebrew; at another, she gazes meaningfully at a statue of Boadicea. The film’s “ace in the hole” is Timothy Spall’s “impish” turn as Irving, which is disturbingly compelling, said Tim Robey in The Daily Telegraph. Yet not even Spall can save this film from its general air of being made for TV. Best see it on the small screen.



Sing

Dirs: Christophe Lourdelet
and Garth Jennings
1hr 48mins (U)

An energetic animated musical

★★★

This “fun, toe-tapping” animated musical takes a conventional idea – a comedy set around a talent contest – and turns it into something “winning”, said Dave Calhoun in Time Out. Our hero is a koala bear and theatrical impresario (voiced by Matthew McConaughey) who seeks to revive his fortunes by hosting a singing competition. A clerical error leads to his \$1,000 prize money being advertised as \$100,000, and soon every animal in town is queuing up to try their luck. With a host of celebrities contributing vocal talents, including Reese Witherspoon as a pig, and Seth MacFarlane as a crooning mouse, it’s hard not to enjoy *Sing*, said Geoffrey Macnab in The Independent. Yet it doesn’t bear comparison with recent animated gems such as *Zootopia*. True, it’s not “particularly original”, said Wendy Ide in The Observer, yet this new film is “fizzing” with energy. And I “challenge you not to well up” when Meena, a painfully shy elephant, belts out a magnificent rendition of Leonard Cohen’s *Hallelujah*.



Why Brexit has been good for British film

The markets were uncertain, the future unclear. Yet somehow 2016 proved to be a bumper year for the British film industry, said Alex Ritman in The Hollywood Reporter. According to new figures published by the British Film Institute (BFI), last year the industry saw its second-highest UK box office takings ever. And it hasn’t just been a question of financing films: an impressive £1.6bn was spent on making films here in Britain. That’s a rise of 13% on 2015, and the highest such figure since the BFI began compiling their statistics back in 1994.

Oddly enough, the spike in spending may partly have been driven by Brexit. The fall in the value of the pound following the EU referendum in June has made it tantalisingly cheap for foreign studios to make films here. Some of the credit must also go to George Osborne, said Catherine Shoard in The Guardian. As chancellor, he set up a tax relief scheme in 2014 designed to lure Disney to



A Star Wars wedding

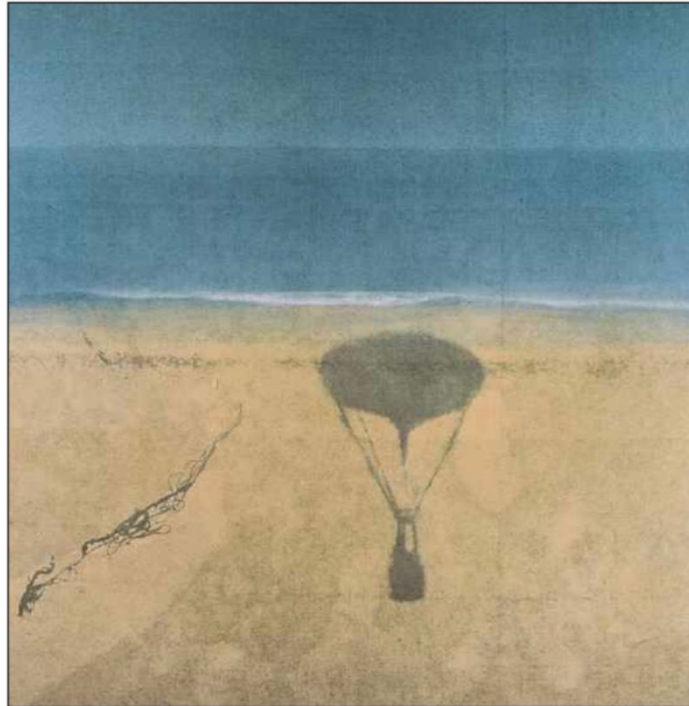
cross the Atlantic to shoot their mega-budget Star Wars reboot, *The Force Awakens*. This set a trend for other major Hollywood studios to follow suit.

The BFI report also revealed that the UK’s independent cinemas are thriving, said Rob Walker in The Observer. Just a few years ago many small local cinemas were on the verge of folding, yet last year they accounted for 23% of screens nationwide – up from 17% the previous year. Some, such as the Duke of York’s Picturehouse in Brighton, have found a new revenue source in live-streaming plays and operas. Others have diversified in more eccentric and extravagant ways. For example, the Electric Cinema in Birmingham was last year the venue for a Star Wars-themed wedding: Lyndsey Holden and James Burrows exchanged vows there, flanked by six stormtroopers and a 6ft 7in Chewbacca. “Even the registrar did his reading in a Yoda voice,” the bride recalled. “It was fab.”

Exhibition of the week **Michael Andrews: Earth Air Water**

Gagosian, London W1 (020-7495 1500, www.gagosian.com). Until 25 March

You have probably never heard of the late English painter Michael Andrews, said Michael Glover in *The Independent*. He died “relatively young”, “eschewed publicity”, and “produced very little” in the course of his career – sometimes no more than two paintings a year. But Andrews (1928-1995) was one of the most “emotionally substantial and intellectually adventurous” English painters of the postwar era – a status confirmed by this new exhibition at London’s Gagosian gallery. The show is the first “substantial” retrospective of his work in 15 years, bringing together 64 paintings – incredibly, about a quarter of his total output. From views of Ayers Rock and English country landscapes to portraits of 1950s Soho bohemians, the works in this “breathtaking” show have a “joyous lift” to them.



Lights VII: A Shadow (1974): Andrews’ “masterpiece”

Raised in rural Norfolk, Andrews spent his early adulthood in London’s “artistic bohemia”, said Martin Gayford in *The Spectator*. Appropriately, the show opens with a 1962 depiction of *The Colony Room*, the “celebrated Soho watering hole” where the likes of Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud (both of whom are clearly recognisable here) would frequently gather. But where Andrews’ early work tended to depict “people and parties”, he later became influenced by Zen Buddhism and worked “almost

“dazzling array” of works conclusively proves that he was Bacon and Freud’s “poetic equal”. His 1980s paintings of “strange and colossal” rock formations in the Australian outback, for example, “do justice to nature at its wildest in a way that bears comparison with Turner”. Even better is his “masterpiece”, *Lights VII: A Shadow* (1974), which depicts the shadow of a hot air balloon moving “gently” across a beach. This is “the rare kind of show that changes a reputation for ever”.

exclusively” as a landscape artist. From the 1970s onwards, he turned his hand to a number of unlikely subjects: tropical fish in his private aquarium; Scottish moors; and shortly before his death, the Thames Estuary at low tide. He was forever trying out new techniques, using spray paint and, in one instance, a hairdryer to blow paint across the canvas. But such experimentation meant that his work was occasionally “uneven”. A case in point is 1975’s *A Cabin*, in which we see a plane flying over a city. The “uncharacteristically clunky” depiction of the aircraft means that the work “doesn’t quite come off”.

Nevertheless, the exhibition corrects the idea that Andrews was merely a “bit player” in the story of British art, said Jonathan Jones in *The Guardian*. Indeed, this

Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Djordje Ozbolt

at Hauser & Wirth Somerset

It is unlikely that this show will get the thumbs up from all who visit. It is gaudy, brash and vulgar, quite literally packed to the rafters with sculptures, paintings and unusual *objets trouvés*. Amorphous, torso-sized sculptures crafted from builders’ materials are placed on plinths in several rooms, their aggressively bright colours enough to give one a migraine. Outside, Djordje Ozbolt, a Yugoslavian-born, London-based artist, has arranged dozens of sinister garden gnomes in a long line, looking for all the world like a column of prisoners on a forced march. Meanwhile, bafflingly energetic paintings that draw from street art clichés, pop culture and – improbably – 17th century still life, ring the walls of the gallery. It would be easy to write all



Moral Dilemma of a Confused Mind (2016), acrylic on canvas, 152cm x 122cm

this off as so much banal dross, were it not so unrelentingly menacing, if not actively terrifying. For better or for worse, this is not a show you will forget. Prices start at £14,000.

Durslade Farm, Bruton, Somerset (01749-814060). Until 7 May.

Picasso’s year of wonders

Many of Picasso’s greatest works of art are being brought together for a “once-in-a-lifetime exhibition” in London and Paris, says Mark Brown in *The Guardian*. The show, a collaboration between Tate Modern and the French capital’s Picasso Museum, will feature some 100 paintings, sculptures and drawings all produced in 1932 – the artist’s “year of wonders”. It was the year he created such masterpieces as *Le Rêve* (pictured), an “erotic, desire-filled” portrait of his young lover Marie-Thérèse Walter, as well as a host of “surrealist works, drawings of the crucifixion and voluptuous sculptures”. It was the year the then 50-year-old artist held his first retrospective, cementing his status as the world’s most influential living artist. And it was a year of high drama in his personal life: he was torn between his wife, Olga, and Marie-Thérèse, who towards the end of 1932 fell ill after almost drowning in the River Marne. *Picasso 1932* will run at Tate Modern from March to September 2018.





Best books... Jodi Picoult

The bestselling American novelist Jodi Picoult picks her five favourite books. Her latest novel, *Great Small Things*, about an African-American midwife accused of killing a white supremacist's baby, is published by Hodder & Stoughton at £14.99

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell, 1936 (Pan £9.99). I read this for the first time when I was 13, and it came alive for me. I could smell Georgia burning; I could imagine the sounds and sights of the American Civil War. Here was an author creating an entire world out of words and I thought, "I could do that too". It's the book that made me want to become a writer.

Out of Africa by Karen Blixen, 1937 (Penguin £8.99). I discovered Blixen's gothic fairy tales (written under the pen name Isak Dinesen) while I was at Princeton. Lush and over-written, they're quite different to her memoir. I was fascinated by the way her writing became

stripped down the closer the tale was to her own life: describing her relationship with her lover Denys Finch Hatton, the sentences are almost simplistic. It was as if words failed her, because they could not contain all the emotions she had for this man.

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, c.1594-95 (OUP £6.99). Sadly, I think this kind of guy went out of fashion with doublets and hose, but as long as there are adolescents who believe that they are the first to invent true love, and as long as there are parents to stand in their way, the story is relevant.

Hills Like White Elephants by Ernest Hemingway, 1927

(in *The First Forty-Nine Stories*, Arrow £7.99). I discovered Hemingway in college. I didn't understand the wow factor until I read this short story. It's a piece about abortion that never actually mentions the word – in fact, the omission (and its reason for never being uttered) is the most critical element in the story.

Turtle Moon by Alice Hoffman, 1992 (Vintage £8.99). My favourite contemporary novelist. Hoffman's work lies in the dreamy world where love collides with magical realism, reminding me of Gabriel García Márquez. She has a startling, beautiful turn of phrase that takes my breath away.

Titles in print are available from The Week bookshop on 0843-060 0020. For out-of-print books visit www.bibliofind.co.uk

The Week's guide to what's worth seeing and reading

Showing now

Art at The Old Vic, London SE1 (0844-871 7628). Rufus Sewell stars in this "very funny and exquisitely calibrated" revival of Yasmina Reza's comedy about the complexities of male friendship (Independent). Ends 18 February.

Book now

Damian Lewis plays a middle-aged man who falls in love with a goat in Edward Albee's **The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?** Sophie Okonedo is his appalled wife. 24 March–24 June, Theatre Royal Haymarket, London SW1 (020-7930 8800).

Before Stalin clamped down on them, Soviet artists were some of the most experimental in the world. The RA's **Revolution: Russian Art 1917-1932** features work by leading artists of the era, including Kandinsky, Chagall and Malevich. 11 February–17 April, Royal Academy, London W1 (020-7300 8090).

The mammoth line-up for the 15th edition of **Glasgow International Comedy Festival** features Frankie Boyle, Bridget Christie, Rich



Malevich's *Peasants* (c.1930) at the RA's *Revolution*

Hall, Stewart Lee, Josie Long, and many more. There's also a staging of the hit comedy *The Play That Goes Wrong*. 9-26 March, various venues, Glasgow (0844-873 7353).

Just out in paperback

The North Water by Ian McGuire (Scribner £8.99). A "blood-soaked narrative" about a 19th century whaling voyage to the Arctic that ends in disaster, McGuire's brutal second novel has "exceptional power" (Sunday Times).

Television Programmes

SAS: Rogue Warriors

Ben Macintyre is given rare access to SAS secret files, and interviews some of its founder members, for this series about the extraordinary fighting force. Mon 6 Feb, BBC2 9pm (60mins).

Confessions of the Paparazzi

Notorious freelance photographer George Bamby reveals the tricks of his seedy trade. Mon 6 Feb, C4 9pm (60mins).

The Moorside

Sheridan Smith stars in this two-part drama based on the 2008 disappearance of nine-year-old Shannon Matthews from a Dewsbury council estate. Tue 7 Feb, BBC1 9pm (60mins).

Timeshift – Flights of Fancy: Pigeons and the British

This documentary looks at the achievements of the humble pigeon and meets the pigeon fanciers striving to breed the perfect bird. Narrated by Miles Jupp. Tue 7 Feb, BBC4 9pm (60mins).

Roots Acclaimed US remake of the seminal 1970s historical drama. Adapted from Alex Haley's book, this four-part series tells the story of Kunta Kinte, a proud African slave, and his descendants. Wed 8 Feb, BBC4 9pm (95mins).

Alone with Chrissie Hynde

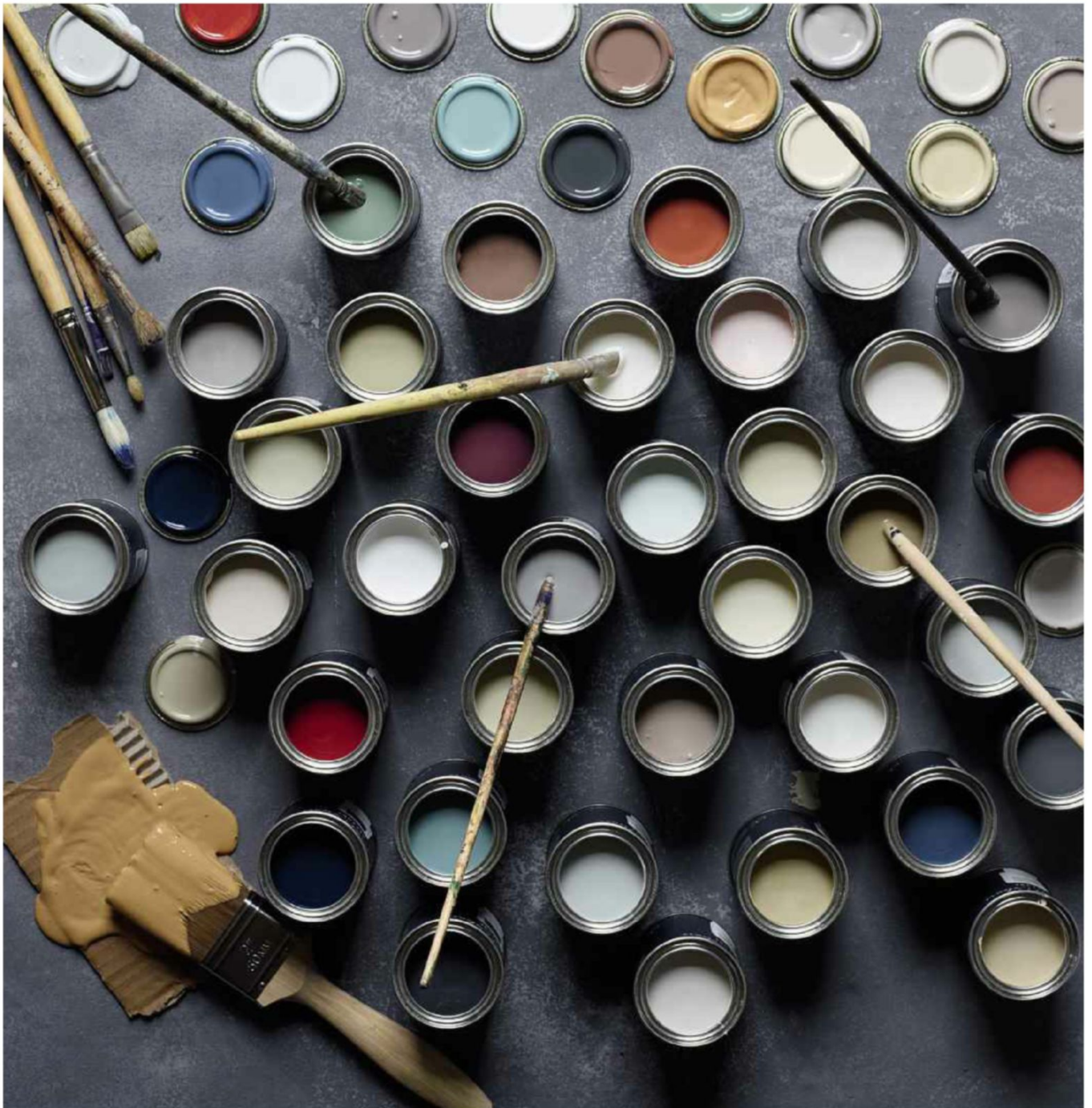
Arena spends the summer with The Pretenders' founder, as she visits her home town in Ohio, hangs out with Sandra Bernhard, and gigs in London. Fri 10 Feb, BBC4 9pm (60mins).

Films

In Darkness (2011) Drama based on the true story of Leopold Socha, a sewer worker who hid Jews in secret underground passageways in Lviv during WWII. Sat 4 Feb, BBC2 1.20am (135mins).

Coming up for auction

At Christie's **Interiors** sale, Chesterfield sofas, card tables and Persian rugs are going under the hammer alongside a number of more quirky items, including a collection of eight red ministerial dispatch boxes (est. £1,500), a glass table with a scorpion-shaped base (est. £1,500), and a slipper and other items believed to have belonged to Queen Victoria. 22 February, London SW7 (020-7930 6074).



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Houses in conservation areas



▲ **Somerset:** Salisbury House, Shepton Beauchamp, Ilminster. A Grade II house dating from the 12th century. Master suite, 3 further beds, family bath, breakfast/kitchen, 1 recep, snug, study, utility, walled gardens, swimming pool, pool house with shower and sauna, garage, studio, orchard, summerhouse, 0.61 acres. £695,000; Strutt & Parker (01392-215631).

▼ **East Sussex:** Maltravers Street, Arundel. A Grade II cottage with many original features, in a sought-after location in the heart of the historic town. Master bed with iron fireplace, guest bed, family bath, kitchen, breakfast/dining area, sitting room with slate fireplace, bifold doors to courtyard garden. £435,000; Sims Williams (01903-885678).



► **East Sussex:** Osborn House, Bexhill-on-Sea. A Grade II listed Georgian townhouse in the conservation area of Bexhill Old Town, a short walk from the seafront and the De La Warr Pavilion. Master suite, 4 further double beds, family bath, breakfast/kitchen with Aga, 3 receps, private walled garden, cobbled patio, vegetable patch. £600,000; Fine & Country (01580-715000).



▲ **London:** Fournier Street, E1. A Grade II, five-storey Georgian townhouse on one of the most desirable streets in the Spitalfields conservation area. Built in the early 1700s, the house has sash windows and high ceilings throughout. 3 beds, 1 further bed/recep, 2 baths, kitchen/recep, 1 further recep, WC/cloakroom, vault, purpose-built studio, garden. £2.5m freehold, no onward chain; Savills (020-7578 6200).



► **Gloucestershire:** 40 and 42 Long Street, Tetbury. An exceptional Grade I listed Elizabethan townhouse with retail space, thought to be the oldest house in Tetbury, with parts dating back to the 15th century. Set over 3 floors with a cellar below, the house has been comprehensively renovated by the current owners. Master suite, 2 further beds, family bath, shower, breakfast/kitchen/recep, 1 further recep, office/showroom, 6 further showrooms, utility, cloakroom, study, courtyard garden, outbuildings. £1.25m; Knight Frank (01285-659771).





▲ **Nottinghamshire:** Normanton House, Normanton-on-the-Wolds. A Grade II house in this popular conservation village. Master suite, 7/8 further beds, 3 further baths, kitchen, 4 receps, family room, orangery, boot room, utility, wine cellars, 1-bed stable block conversion, stabling, gardens, 1 acre. £1.625m; Savills (0115-934 8020).

◀ **Norfolk:** Keswick Mill, Keswick. A Grade II watermill with many original features, set at the end of a private road on the edge of the village. Master suite, 7 further beds, 3 further baths, kitchen, 2 receps, study, games room, hall, workshop, ground floor with double garage, cloakroom, gardens, double bank river frontage, paddock, 2.7 acres. £975,000; Jackson-Stops & Staff (01603-612333).



► **Kent:** Aylmer House, Tumblers Hill, Sutton Valence. A Grade II house with a terraced garden and direct access to the Greensand Way and other lovely country walks. 5 beds, family bath, WC, shower, kitchen, 2 receps, utility/study area, hall, cellar, garden, orchard, garden stores. OIEO £600,000; Jackson-Stops & Staff (01580-720000).



▲ **Herefordshire:** Coed Lank Farm, Broad Oak. A Grade II, 16th century farmhouse on the outskirts of Garway, with two detached 2-bed holiday homes, plus a range of outbuildings and 4.5 acres of mature grounds and gardens. Master suite, 3 further suites, 1 further bed, family bath, kitchen, 3 receps, boot room, attic, garage, manège, paddock, stabling. £950,000; Roscoe Rogers Knight (01600-772929).

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What the experts recommend

The Patricia 139 Jesmond Road, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-281 4443)

Chef proprietor Nick Grieves is clearly a chap who loves eating in restaurants, and you get the feeling he has taken real pleasure in creating this informal but ambitious Newcastle bistro, says Marina O'Loughlin in *The Guardian*. There's a slightly "hand-knitted quality" to the interior, but on a wintry evening "the deep oxblood walls are as cocooning as a womb, the welcome every bit as comforting". If menu writing is an art (and I'd argue that it is), then Grieves's is a "mini masterpiece". It has nothing on it that I wouldn't be delighted to try, and what turns up on the plate does not disappoint. The "snacks" section offers "particular beauties", including "evilily neckable" oily crisps of sourdough toast sandwiching an ooze of soft cheese laced with "boozy little morello cherries". Other highlights include chicken liver pâté under a cap of "limpid, glossy Madeira jelly", and sweet little clams given a dose of extra brine from sea kale, and a dash of smoky salt from bacon. Great puddings, too. In short, a "belter". *About £40 a head, plus drinks.*

Passione e Tradizione 451 West Green Road, London N15 (020-8245 9491)

After a few years living in Haringay, says David Sexton in the *London Evening Standard*, even the most grateful



Passione e Tradizione: a "little Italian gem"

connoisseur of the area's many excellent Turkish grill houses (in fact, mostly Kurdish) might wish for "a little more variety to be dotted among them". So the opening just before Christmas of this "little Italian gem, at the rougher end of the patch" comes as "a total delight". The Italian-raised chef-owner, Mustapha Mouflih, is the man behind the raved-about Anima e Cuore in Kentish Town, and his new place is just as admirable. Our starters of fresh pasta were "as good as any ever" – one with a deep partridge ragu, the other with an "incredibly generous grating of profoundly aromatic truffle". Together with gorgeous

home-made puddings (cherry semifreddo and sorbets), the whole meal was such a success I've been back twice since. Other treats have included savoury smoked tomato *arancini*, rich Gorgonzola and radicchio-stuffed *crespelle* (crêpes), perfectly lemony veal *scaloppine*, and another amazing pasta dish, this time with a long-simmered lamb ragu. By our third visit, the place was rammed, mostly with Italians. *About £60 for two, with wine.*

Jihwaja 353 Kennington Lane, London SE11 (020-7582 4680)

I emerged from this "hilariously brilliant" new Korean restaurant in Vauxhall feeling as if I had been "glazed inside and out by their sweet-salty chilli sauce", and with my ears "echoing from the crunch" of their "completely outrageous" fried chicken, says Jay Rayner in *The Observer*. You pay £16.90 for the "whole bird", cut into pieces and "battered and battered again", then drenched in a "sweet and fiery" sauce of *gochujang* (hot pepper paste), soy, honey and more chilli; or a soy garlic version. Both are a joy – and "crisp in a way that echoes through your jaw". Other delights included "utterly compelling" seaweed rice balls, "laced with the iodine-rich tang of the shore"; and a *bibimbap* (rice bowl) piled with lightly spiced braised pork belly, sautéed vegetables and fried egg, with more *gochujang* on the side. "Dig in." *Meal for two, with drinks, £50.*

Recipe of the week: Mole de olla

Not all Mexican *moles* are thick sauces ladled over meat, says Lesley Téllez. This "*mole in a pot*", popular across central Mexico, is a richly full-bodied, chilli-accented broth combined with chunks of stewed beef, corn on the cob, squash and green beans

Serves 4-6 For the meat: 900g beef chuck steak or short ribs, cut into large pieces 450g veal or marrow bones ¼ large onion 2 garlic cloves, peeled 2 sprigs of fresh thyme 5 black peppercorns 1 celery stick, roughly chopped 1 carrot, roughly chopped

For the sauce: 8 costeño chillies 2 guajillo chillies 2 pasilla chillies rapeseed oil, for frying 4 black peppercorns

2 cloves ½ tsp aniseed ½ tsp Mexican oregano 2 heaped tsps finely chopped fresh ginger scant ½ tsp ground nutmeg 2 plum tomatoes, quartered 4 small garlic cloves, peeled ¼ medium onion salt 2 tsp lard or rapeseed oil 2 corn cobs, husked and each cut into four pieces 110g green beans, cut into 5cm lengths 1 chayote, unpeeled, sliced pole to pole and thinly sliced 1 large Mexican squash or courgette, cut into 1cm-thick half-moons 5-8 sprigs of epazote, to taste 12 warmed corn tortillas 4 limes, cut into wedges

- To prepare the meat, place all the ingredients in a large, deep saucepan. Cover with water, bring to the boil and skim off any surface scum. Reduce heat and simmer gently, partly covered, for about 1 hour 45 minutes, until tender. Transfer the meat to a bowl and strain the stock, discarding the aromatics. Skim off any large pools of fat. You can refrigerate the meat and stock for up to 2 days.

- For the sauce, snip the stems off the dried chillies and shake out the seeds (if the chillies are too brittle, toast them first in a comal griddle or non-stick frying pan to soften). Fry the chillies in the oil in batches, one variety at a time, and stirring constantly to avoid burning for about 10 seconds, until they change colour and emit a spicy aroma. Set aside.

- Grind the peppercorns, cloves and aniseed in a mortar. Transfer



1 tbsp salt. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 15-20 minutes, until the beans are almost tender. Add the chayote, squash and epazote and cook for 10 minutes, or until the squash is tender. Taste and add more salt or epazote, if desired. Serve in deep bowls with the warmed tortillas and lime wedges.

to a blender with the oregano, ginger, nutmeg, tomatoes, garlic, onion and a pinch of salt, along with the fried chillies and 120ml of the reserved stock. Blend on high until smooth.

- Heat the lard (or oil) in a medium frying pan over a medium heat. Add the chilli sauce in one quick pour (stand back, as it may splatter). Cook for 8-10 minutes until the sauce darkens, stirring often so it doesn't stick on the base of the pan.

- Put the rest of the stock and the meat in a large saucepan and bring to a gentle simmer. Pour in the chilli sauce and add the corn, green beans and

Taken from Eat Mexico: Recipes from Mexico City's Streets, Markets & Fondas by Lesley Téllez, published by Kyle Books at £19.99. To buy from The Week Bookshop for £15.99, call 020-3176 3835 or visit www.theweek.co.uk/bookshop.

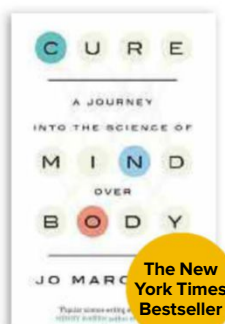
The Wellcome Prize Longlist has been announced

The longlist includes memoir, contemporary fiction, historical fiction and popular science, showcasing the breadth and depth of our encounters with medicine.

Cure by Jo Marchant

Can meditation fend off dementia? Can the smell of lavender affect the immune system? Can your thoughts ease physical pain? The award-winning author travels the world to meet those at the cutting edge of medicine and asks how the brain can heal the body.

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The Golden Age by Joan London

A family escape from Hungary and the perils of WW2 to the safety of Australia, but not long after their arrival their son is diagnosed with polio. In hospital he finds the most beautiful girl he has ever seen, and a vocation for poetry. A moving story about illness and recovery, childhood and maturity, life and death.

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Miss Jane by Brad Watson

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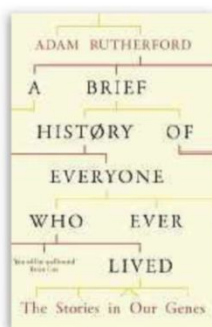


View the complete longlist at TheWeek.co.uk/Bookshop

A Brief History of Everyone by Adam Rutherford

This is a story about you. It is the history of who you are and how you came to be. It is unique to you, because in every one of our genomes we each carry the history of our species - births, deaths, disease, war, famine, migration and a lot of sex.

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Mend the Living by Maylis de Kerangal trans. Jessica Moore

In the depths of a winter's night, Simon Limbeau embarks on a trip he's made a hundred times and yet, today, the heart of Simon Limbeau will encounter a very different course. A twenty-four-hour whirlwind of death and life.

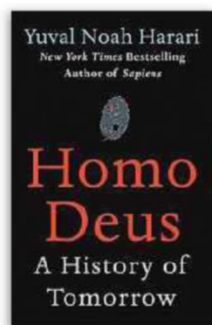
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Homo Deus by Yuval Noah Harari

The bestselling author examines our future with his trademark blend of science, history, philosophy and every discipline in between. *Homo Deus* explores the projects, dreams and nightmares that will shape the twenty-first century - from overcoming death to creating artificial life.

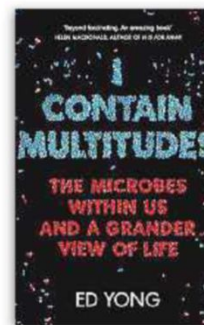
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I Contain Multitudes by Ed Yong

New York Times Non-Fiction Book of the Year and Bestseller. Ed Yong opens our eyes and invites us to marvel at ourselves and other animals in a new light, less as individuals and more as thriving ecosystems.

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New cars: "a colossal amount of fun"

A lot has changed in the past six decades, said Jonathan Burn in Auto Express, "but with the exception of a new name, the Caterham Seven really hasn't". Originally known as the Lotus, this open-top, two-seat roadster is celebrating its 60th birthday – and to mark the occasion, Caterham has launched the Seven Sprint, based on a mid-1960s design that "never made it past the drawing board". Just 60 models have been produced, at what is a "huge price" for a Caterham, but that hasn't deterred buyers: the Seven Sprint sold out within a week of being announced.

The car "recaptures the mood of the Swinging Sixties", said Ben Whitworth in Car magazine – while avoiding "the slightest whiff of retro cheesiness". Outside, there are front wings, chromed wheel caps and bubbled rear lamps, "wrapped up in



Caterham Seven Sprint

£27,995

Beaumont in Evo. It's very noisy, though it feels more powerful than its 80bhp would suggest, and does 0-60mph in 6.5 seconds. The car doesn't cope well with rough or bumpy roads; elsewhere, however, it offers a "delicate and entertaining" drive. It feels most at home on smaller roads, where you can revel in its impressively precise steering. Although a lot of effort has gone into its "retro" looks, the Seven Sprint isn't a triumph of style over substance; "it's a colossal amount of fun".

a choice of yesteryear hues". Inside, the cabin is an old-fashioned treat, with a "delightfully thin" wooden steering wheel and a red leather dash. Don't be fooled by that "heritage styling", however – the car is underpinned by an up-to-date, albeit "dinky", turbocharged Suzuki engine.

Still, the Suzuki "does its best to emulate an ancient motor", said Will Beaumont in Evo. It's very noisy, though it feels more powerful than its 80bhp would suggest, and does 0-60mph in 6.5 seconds. The car doesn't cope well with rough or bumpy roads; elsewhere, however, it offers a "delicate and entertaining" drive. It feels most at home on smaller roads, where you can revel in its impressively precise steering. Although a lot of effort has gone into its "retro" looks, the Seven Sprint isn't a triumph of style over substance; "it's a colossal amount of fun".

The best... smartphone accessories



► **Griffin Survivor Extreme** Put your iPhone 7 or 7 Plus in this protective case and it'll withstand even a 10ft drop onto concrete. Relatively slim, it seals your screen, too, shielding it from mud and water (£40; www.griffintechnology.com).

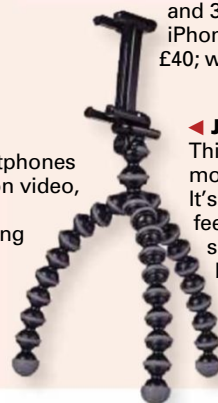


◀ **Roland Go:Mixer** Smartphones can produce high-resolution video, but their microphones leave something to be desired. Plugging in the Go:Mixer (which is being dispatched from next month) improves sound quality by letting you record and mix in stereo (£85; www.gear4music.com).



▲ **Estream** If you're heading into the wilds, this charger could come in handy. A portable hydroelectric generator, it uses any moving water source to produce energy, which can then power a USB-connected device (pre-order for £189, dispatched next month; www.energynomad.com).

► **Meem** This clever device distinguishes itself from other portable chargers by doubling as an external hard drive – ensuring your phone is backed up automatically every time you charge it. There's a 16GB version for Android devices, and 32GB for iPhones (from £40; www.amazon.co.uk).



◀ **Joby GripTight GorillaPod Stand** This tripod will help you get the most out of your phone's camera. It's impressively adaptable: rubber feet keep it stable on uneven surfaces – and you can use the bendy legs to tie it to railings, say, or hang it from a tree (£15.59; www.viking-direct.co.uk).

Tips of the week... how to look after your car

- Some fuel pumps can overheat if they're not submerged in petrol, so to make your pump last longer, aim to keep your tank at least a quarter full.
- If you have the time, let your car sit for a minute after it starts so the oil can circulate, lifting the engine's temperature. Don't be tempted to rev: it won't speed up the process, and it could cause damage, as abrupt changes in temperature can create stress between engine components.
- Always use the handbrake when parked, even if the surface is level. Otherwise, the vehicle's weight rests on a piece of metal that can break – and is costly to replace.
- When backing out of a parking space, make sure the car has fully stopped before flicking from reverse to drive. Switching while you're still rolling backwards can harm the engine and transmission.
- Don't rest your hand on the gear lever. It puts strain on the transmission's bushings (bearings), wearing them out prematurely.

SOURCE: POPULAR MECHANICS

And for those who have everything...



The Full Stop Bowl is designed to stop you eating too much. It's modelled on the volume – and shape – of a human stomach, and the idea is that you only eat what it can hold (which isn't all that much).

£18; www.fullstopbowl.com

SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN

Where to find... food and drink subscriptions

Cocoa Runners sends four new bars of small-batch, single-estate chocolate a month – along with tasting notes on each one. You can choose between dark chocolate or a mixture of dark and milk (£19 a month; www.cocoarunners.com).

The Cheese Society offers an ever-changing roster of five cheeses a month, all of them from small producers. Totalling around 1kg, the options tend to include a blue cheese and a goat's cheese (from £31 a month; www.thecheesesociety.co.uk).

Cure and Simple produces traditionally cured bacon from Suffolk pigs, in a range of flavours – including Thai and bourbon. You can stick with the same kind every month, or get a different one each time (from £6 a month; www.cureandsimple.com).

Pact roasts coffee beans – sourced directly from farmers – and posts them to you. Subscriptions are easy to customise, with a choice of up to three varieties per delivery (from £7 a month; www.pactcoffee.com).

SOURCES: THE SUNDAY TIMES/THE INDEPENDENT

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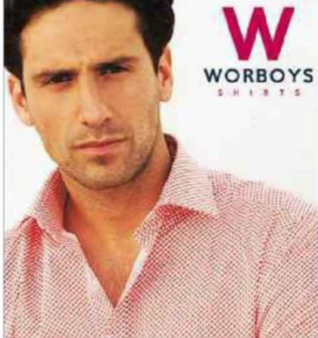
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This week's dream: a tour of Germany's great church organs

To experience the music of Bach, Mozart and Handel in the way they expected it to be heard, travel to Germany – home to some of Europe's most magnificent church organs, says Akhil Sharma in the FT. The Germans have a particular passion for organ music (the country still has around 120 organ makers), and many churches hold regular recitals and offer public tours. But for more “exclusive” access, contact London-based travel firm Brown and Hudson. They specialise in tailoring trips to clients' interests, and can arrange a tour featuring concerts, private visits to organ makers' workshops and meetings with experts.

The centuries-old Ottobeuren Abbey, in Bavaria, has three organs, including a double organ, built by Karl Joseph Riepp and completed in 1766, that is one of the most treasured in Europe. To hear the great works played on this instrument, in the basilica's soaring rococo interior, surrounded by worshippers – many in Bavarian costume – is overwhelming.



The rococo interior of the basilica at Ottobeuren Abbey

Listening to an orchestral work, the sound often seems to be coming from one direction. Organ music, by contrast, completely occupies the church. After the service, Ottobeuren organist Josef Miltschitzky will take you on a tour of the organ loft, during which you can climb in among the pipes while he explains their workings.

At the Jehmlich Orgelbau workshop in Dresden, you can get a fascinating insight into how these machines are made, and see dismantled parts usually hidden inside – a huge bellow dating from the 1600s, a pipe wide enough for a man to crawl inside, another the size of a pencil. Head to Dresden Cathedral to hear the last organ made by

Gottfried Silbermann, “the Antonio Stradivari of organ makers”, whose work Mozart declared “magnificent beyond measure”. Even a recording of its silvery notes “can make one's hair stand on end”. *A bespoke four-day tour with Brown and Hudson costs about €6,500 (020-3358 0110, www.browndanandhudson.com).*

Hotel of the week



Amangiri, Utah, US

This elegant, polished-concrete wilderness resort in Utah's Navajo country is “a luminous place of startling beauty”, says Condé Nast Traveller – and also “ridiculously” enjoyable. Run by the Aman group, it offers endless activities – from hiking and horse riding to “doughnutting behind speedboats” on nearby Lake Powell – that make it “brilliant for families”. But it is also “absurdly romantic”, with rooftop beds for stargazing, a pool built around a 164-million-year-old rock, and private terraces with fireplaces outside every room. The New-American cuisine is zingy, too, and the service is “superlative”.

Doubles from about £1,375, full board, including transfers. +1 435 675 3999, www.amangiri.com.

Getting the flavour of...

Family sailing lessons in Croatia

Learning the basics of sailing a catamaran in just a week is hard work. But do it as a family among the islands of Croatia's Dalmatian coast and you'll find it's “terrific fun” too, says Fiona Bruce in The Sunday Telegraph. That's not only thanks to the sunshine, the long lunches on tiny wild islands, and the chance to dive into the “clear, lapis-blue” sea whenever the fancy takes you. It's also because working together as a family (under the skipper's instructions) is surprisingly joyful. There's a “tremendous” sense of freedom as you sail around, and you have a good chance of passing the exam for an International Certificate of Competence at the end – qualifying you to sail within about five miles of the coast in daylight hours. *Sunsail (020-3468 9205, www.sunsail.co.uk) has a one-week flotilla holiday with training from £1,582pp.*

Blood and beauty in South Africa

The province of KwaZulu-Natal in eastern South Africa is known for its amazing beaches and safari reserves, but it has another, lesser known tourist draw, says Jon Stone in The Independent – the starkly beautiful battlefields of the Anglo-Zulu war. Sparked by the British invasion of the Zulu Kingdom in 1879, this bloody and hard-fought conflict is remembered chiefly for the battle of Rorke's Drift – featured in the 1964

film *Zulu* – in which around 140 British soldiers held off up to 4,000 warriors of the Zulu king. More significant, however, was the Zulu victory at Isandlwana, nearby. There, white cairns marking mass graves dot the plain, which stretches out toward distant “blue-grey” mountains. It is a “stunning” landscape, made more moving by its dark history. Many details of the battle are remembered in oral traditions which the best local guides can recount. *Isandlwana Lodge (+27 34 271 8301, www.isandlwana.co.za) has rooms from £208pp per night, full board.*

A taste of old Arabia

For “a short break with a big perspective”, head to the ancient desert sultanate of Oman, says Lydia Bell in The Times. Beyond the country's beach resorts lies a heady dose of old Arabia, free of Dubai's shiny malls and high-rises. Take cooking classes with local women at Bait Al Bilad, a beautifully restored old house in a traditional fishing village. Go snorkelling with hawksbill turtles in the turquoise seas of the wild Daymaniyat Islands. And retreat to a luxury desert camp in Sharqiya Sands, where you can swim in the “crystalline” waters of lonely oases where the ivy-hued palms have an “unreal, cinematic beauty” under the piercing blue sky. *Original Travel (020-7978 7333, www.originaltravel.co.uk) has a five-night trip from £4,420pp, including flights.*

Last-minute offers from top travel companies

Walk Hadrian's Wall

Set in glorious countryside, just a stone's throw from Hadrian's Wall, three nights at Peel Bothy cottage (sleeps 2), in Hexham, are just £416. 0344-800 2070, www.nationaltrustholidays.co.uk. Arrive 17 February.

Wine, food and science

Tour Galileo's Italy with stops in Florence, Pisa and Bologna – a 7-night trip, with breakfast and 3 dinners, costs £1,795pp, including flights. 020-7251 0045, www.traveleditions.co.uk. Depart 9 March.

Viva Las Vegas

Live it up in Las Vegas with five nights at the Circus Circus hotel, room only, from £540pp (two adults sharing), including flights and car hire. 0344-557 6965, www.travelcitydirect.com. Depart 12 March.

A tropical getaway

Bask in the sun at the Lux* Belle Mare hotel in beautiful Mauritius. From £1,675pp for 7 nights' b&b, including return flights. 01293-765003, www.sovereign.com. Depart 6 March.

Versatile actor who specialised in playing outsiders

Sir John Hurt
1940-2017

John Hurt, who has died aged 77, specialised in playing characters on life's margins, said the Daily Mail: he was the emaciated heroin addict locked up in a brutal Turkish jail in *Midnight Express*; the outrageous "stately homo of England" Quentin Crisp in *The Naked Civil Servant*; and the grotesque but tender-hearted John Merrick in *The Elephant Man* (a role that required him to spend eight hours in make-up every day, sustaining himself by drinking raw eggs mixed into orange juice through a straw). Yet with his expressive eyes, and rich, instantly recognisable, voice, Hurt could be as imperious as he was vulnerable, said The Independent. He played an astonishing variety of roles: he was often cast as chancers and roués (he was a brilliant Alan Clark), and was very much at home in John le Carré's "seedy double-dealing world", yet he was just as convincing as a kindly wandmaker (in three Harry Potter films), and as the voice of a plucky rabbit (*Watership Down*). There is even a sporting biopic in his filmography: he played Bob Champion, the jockey who beat cancer to win the Grand National, in *Champions* (1984).



Hurt: a reformed hellraiser

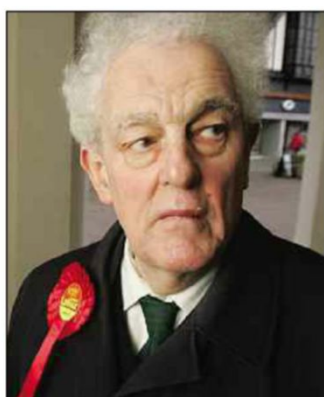
St Martin's that he first set eyes on Quentin Crisp, working as a nude model. Living on a pittance in a basement in Earls Court, Hurt was miserable, until a friend persuaded him to defy his parents, and audition for Rada. He won a scholarship, and joined a class that included Sarah Miles and Ian McShane. "You want to act in order to show people that you are more than you appear to be," he later said, "that you have more to offer than had been allowed at school or within the vicarage. It's down to a desire for love, and all those, er, tricky things to talk about." He was signed by an agent before graduating, and was soon making his name in the West End. In 1966, Fred Zimmermann saw him in David Halliwell's *Little Malcolm And His Struggle Against The Eunuchs*, and cast him in his film version of *A Man for All Seasons*. After that, Hurt was rarely out of work, said The Daily Telegraph. People warned him not to do *The Naked Civil Servant*, but it won him a Bafta. He was the astronaut who dies when an alien bursts out of his stomach in Ridley Scott's *Alien* (1979), and in 1984, played Winston Smith in Orwell's *1984*.

For many years, Hurt was almost as famous for his drinking as he was for his acting, and his personal life was consequently rackety. His first marriage, in the early 1960s, lasted just two years. He later lived for 16 years with the French model Marie-Lise Volpeliere-Pierrot – and was devastated when she was killed in a riding accident in 1983. He began to drink even more heavily, which put paid to his second marriage; his third, to Jo Dalton, produced two sons, but ended in 1995. Finally, he found lasting happiness with Anwen Rees-Myers. After their marriage, in 2005, he gave up drinking and smoking. People like hearing stories about hellraisers, he observed, but though "wacky behaviour may seem like a lot of fun, it usually isn't. It's usually the sign of a very distressed person looking for something they can't find."

Principled MP who was never afraid to be "a bore"

Tam Dalyell
1932-2017

He was the Old Etonian with an ancestral pile who ended up representing a mining constituency; the former Tory who moved to the left-wing of the Labour Party; the self-described "single issue" politician whose persistence could exasperate even his friends. In short, Tam Dalyell was different, said Brian Taylor on BBC News online. He was a maverick and such a thorn in the flesh of the Establishment, he never once held ministerial office during his 43 years at Westminster (he was Father of the House by the time he retired, in 2005). But it was not a role he sought out. The MP for West Lothian – famed for framing the so-called West Lothian question – genuinely believed in the rightness of his causes, and in pursuit of them, he was willing to risk unpopularity; as he said, if your campaign is worth fighting, "you must not be afraid to be thought a bore".



Dalyell: "Ancient Labour"

Labour candidate by the National Union of Mineworkers, but a unionist whose troubled grandson he had taught put in a good word for him, and he was duly selected to fight a 1962 by-election. He fought off a strong challenge by the Scottish National Party candidate William Wolfe – whom he would stand against a further six times. A committed opponent of devolution, Dalyell first asked his question in 1977: why should Scottish MPs be able to vote on matters that pertain only to England, when English ones cannot vote on areas that are devolved? Enoch Powell dubbed it the West Lothian question.

In the 1960s, Dalyell fought a long campaign to stop Aldabra, an unspoilt coral atoll in the Indian Ocean, from being turned into an air base. In the

early 1980s, he became known for his opposition to the Falklands war, and his relentless pursuit of Margaret Thatcher over the sinking of the Argentine warship the General Belgrano. New Labour's election victory in 1997 didn't quiet him: a former member of the left-wing Campaign Group (probably the only one, it was memorably observed, "to own peacocks"), he described himself as "Ancient Labour". He voted against the intervention in Kosovo in 1999; and opposed the Iraq invasion of 2003. One of his final acts as an MP, said The Daily Telegraph, was to table fresh questions about the Belgrano, "the last of thousands". He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, and their two children.

Born in Edinburgh in 1932, Tam Dalyell was educated at prep school in Cumbria, and then at Eton, where his fag was Jacob Rothschild. At King's College, Cambridge, he was chairman of the Conservative Association, but had a change of heart after the Suez Crisis of 1956. Returning home to West Lothian and the House of the Binns (the Dalyell family seat, inherited from his mother's family), he became a teacher at a local secondary school. With his background, he had little chance of being endorsed as a

Companies in the news ...and how they were assessed

HBOS: banded to rights

It is eight years since the collapse of Halifax Bank of Scotland forced it into the arms of Lloyds, but the legacy of the bank's dysfunctional regime is still being untangled, said Ben Chapman in *The Independent*. Following a six-year investigation by Thames Valley Police, two former HBOS bankers and four of their associates have been convicted of bribery and fraud charges over a £245m loan scam between 2003 and 2007. They now face lengthy jail terms. The case centred on the "corrupt" relationship between Lynden Scourfield, who ran the HBOS division dealing with "small companies in distress", and business consultant David Mills and his wife, Alison, said Jane Croft in the *FT*. "In return for expensive gifts, cash, foreign travel and sex with prostitutes", Scourfield referred his clients to Mills' restructuring consultancy, QCS, as a condition of them obtaining further credit. "This allowed Mills and his associates to demand huge fees", and even to take over struggling businesses "for their own benefit". Many were forced into liquidation, causing great hardship to their owners, while the defendants lived the high life. The corruption was only exposed after a long fight by a couple whose firm was targeted, said Harry Wilson in *The Times*. They first complained to HBOS a decade ago, "and were not only ignored but subject to 22 eviction hearings by the bank". Justice at last.

Volkswagen/Toyota: purring again?

Volkswagen has earned the dubious honour of being named as one of the ten "most controversial" companies in the world in 2016, according to a list put together by the business intelligence firm RepRisk, said Jack Torrance in *Management Today*. The German carmaker still faces "several ongoing investigations and legal challenges" as a result of its emissions scandal. But all is not lost. It has just claimed the crown of "the world's largest carmaker" by sales – ending Toyota's four-year reign. The VW Group, which includes the Audi, Porsche and Skoda marques, recorded an overall 3.8% rise from 2015, said Gwyn Topham in *The Guardian*. Clearly, the brand wasn't as "seriously damaged in the eyes of consumers" as feared. Still, the key driver was China, where VW sells very few diesel vehicles; it saw booming sales growth of 12% in a year. Dieselpgate was a "non-issue" there, and the Audi brand is very popular. Toyota took its dethroning on the chin, claiming airily that it is no longer "focused on chasing volume". But although sales in its home market of Japan grew, it suffered a setback in the, much larger, US market. Following a barrage of presidential tweets over its plans to locate factories in Mexico, Toyota's troubles in Trumpland "may be growing".

Novo Nordisk: bringing home the bacon

Who says Brexit Britain can't attract investment from mainland Europe, asked Julia Bradshaw in *The Daily Telegraph*. In a "vote of confidence" for the UK's life sciences sector, the Danish pharma giant Novo Nordisk has "brushed aside concerns" to invest £115m in a new research centre in Oxford employing 100 scientists. The focus is on finding novel treatments for Type-2 diabetes. The company's chief science officer, Mads Krosgaard Thomsen, takes a long view. "Obviously, we think the Brexit decision was unfortunate", but "Oxford University has been around for 800 years, so the academic excellence and our company's ability to turn that into medicines hasn't really changed".

Seven days in the Square Mile

US stocks posted their biggest drop so far this year after President Trump's curb on immigration raised fears over the impact of his policies. The **FTSE 100** fell to its lowest level of 2017. Trump continued his attack on countries with weak currencies, criticising China and Japan for "play[ing] the money market". He had earlier accused Germany of using a "grossly undervalued" **euro** to "exploit" other economies. The **pound** enjoyed its best January against the dollar in six years, rising above \$1.25.

RBS set aside a further £3.1bn to cover fines relating to its sale of toxic mortgage investments in America. Ministers have shelved plans to sell shares in the lender, which is 72% state-owned, because of uncertainty over the scale of the US Department of Justice fine. **Deutsche Bank** was fined £500m by US and UK authorities for its failure to crack down on money laundering.

Apple's latest quarterly results beat expectations on virtually every measure, thanks to record iPhone sales: revenue rose 3.3% to \$78.35bn. **Toshiba** was "reviewing the future" of its nuclear businesses outside Japan, after incurring billions in losses, throwing a planned £10bn development in Cumbria into doubt. **TalkTalk** shares jumped 8% on news that CEO Dido Harding is quitting: Sir Charles Dunstone is taking over as executive chairman. **Sir Ken Morrison** – who parlayed a small family grocery chain into one of the UK's largest supermarkets – died, aged 85.

Tesco/Booker: an even bigger slice of the pie?

In his first two years as Tesco chief executive, "Drastic" Dave Lewis earned his nickname by "scything through" the supermarket's empire, said the *Financial Times*. Now Tesco is looking to grow again. In a move that will tighten its grip on Britain's food market, it has agreed a £3.7bn deal to buy Booker, the country's biggest food wholesaler, which is also the giant behind the Londis and Budgen convenience store chains. Analysts reckon the deal could add another 2% to Tesco's existing 28% grocery market share. Since Booker also supplies restaurants, including Wagamama, Carluccio's and Byron, it would also give it a big slice of the booming catering supplies market.



Londis: part of the Booker group

The surprise deal cheered the City: Tesco's shares jumped 9%, Booker's by 16%. But it is undeniably controversial, said Oliver Shah in *The Sunday Times*. The move prompted the resignation of Tesco's senior non-executive director, Richard Cousins, after

a heated boardroom clash. He won't be the only one complaining. Thousands of independent shopkeepers running Booker's convenience stores could now "find themselves at the mercy of their worst enemy".

"The winks fussed enough over Poundland buying 99p Stores, so they're not going to nod through a pair of companies with leading positions in the £195bn UK food market," said Alistair Osborne in *The Times*. A possibly "interminable" Competition and Markets Authority inquiry looks inevitable. A good

thing too, said Simon Watkins in *The Mail* on Sunday. This deal may be "a potential boon to consumers" if it results in slashed prices, but it's a nightmarish prospect for smaller suppliers, squeezed between rising input costs, thanks to the falling pound, and weaker bargaining power. "In the end, there is no such thing as a free lunch. Somebody must pick up the bill."

Issue of the week: #DeleteUber

The campaign against Uber for “collaborating” with President Trump highlights the battle lines being drawn up in corporate America

“In an effort to understand their new reality” under President Trump, many American bosses have been studying *The Art of the Deal* – Trump’s autobiography published in 1987, said Schumpeter in *The Economist*. It begins by describing his working week, “which mainly consists of frequent calls with his stockbroker”, and “sitting in his office as other business people pay him lavish tribute”. If Trump’s routine is anything like the same today, he must be delighted: stock markets have jumped since his election, and many of the same executives who lambasted him “as a menace to capitalism” before his election have been publicly lavishing praise. Maybe some are excited by his pro-business stance; others are probably just “terrified”.



Kalanick: feeling the force of customer protests

Trump already had “corporate America walking on eggshells”, said Antony Currie on Reuters Breakingviews. But the public furore following last weekend’s travel ban has landed business leaders with a nasty dilemma. “Speaking out against an edict that is draped in the flag of national security may increase the level of Trump’s invective on Twitter and elsewhere.” Yet the risk of a backlash from angry customers opposing the ban is considerable. This week, the ride-hailing app Uber felt the full force of it. After failing to join a New York City taxi strike protesting against Trump’s order, it was hit by a furious #DeleteUber social media

campaign – giving its smaller rival Lyft the golden opportunity of presenting itself as the “good” ride-hail company. Uber CEO Travis Kalanick attempted appeasement by donating \$3m to a legal fund for drivers facing immigration issues. But the campaign continued – focusing on the fact that Kalanick continues to sit on Trump’s business advisory committee.

#DeleteUber offers a few lessons for Silicon Valley, said Brian Solomon on Forbes.com. “First and most obvious: having a good relationship with customers can prevent you from becoming the target of a backlash.” Tesla’s CEO, Elon Musk, also sits on Trump’s advisory council, yet he hasn’t faced any protests. “But the larger lesson is that tech companies are going to have to choose sides.” As worried as they are about angering Trump, customers are “a much more immediate problem”. And for firms such as Uber, mainly catering to a younger, urban crowd, these are “overwhelmingly likely to be liberal and anti-Trump”. If Uber – or any other company – is seen as a Trump “collaborator” in the protest war, it could soon show up “on their balance sheets”. Many companies have been making “anaemic efforts to triangulate” their relationship with the new administration and their customers. Events this week suggest they’ll need to up their game. Communications and PR teams must be working overtime.

Making money: populism and investment

● A new portfolio

Every time a “populist” political movement gets close to a whiff of power, the same warnings are wheeled out by fund managers, said Matthew Lynn in *The Daily Telegraph*: “sell while you still can”. The “Trump Bump” and “Brexit Bounce” have given the lie to that. And they’re not the only ones. Poland is “veering off to the populist Right”, yet the Warsaw index is “doing great”. So are Hungarian equities, despite the “nationalist posturing” of PM Viktor Orbán. “As populists come to power, there is always a dip in the markets – and the only lesson is to buy the shares.” A “populist portfolio” now would comprise the US, UK, Poland and Hungary; next year, maybe, the Netherlands and France. “True, you might have to hold your nose as you put in the buy orders. But it will almost certainly outperform any other investment you might make this year.”



The Trump Bump

immigration. Ray Dalio, boss of the hedge fund giant Bridgewater, wrote in December about the possibility of Trump’s policies igniting “animal spirits”, and creating “a virtuous cycle” of investment and returns. His caveat was to question “whether this administration will be a) aggressive and thoughtful or b) aggressive and reckless”. By now, investors should be starting to arrive at an answer.

● Guessing game

Should investors run for the hills in fear of 1930s-style protectionism, or hang around to enjoy the possible fruits of tax cuts and massive infrastructure spending? “Each twitch in the stock market is taken as support for one side of the argument or the other,” said Nils Pratley in *The Guardian*. It’s “a great guessing game”, but the investment implications are “clear as mud”. If there is a rough consensus, it’s that a big US fiscal stimulus will “eventually encounter the stiff breezes of a strong dollar and higher interest rates”, and that there is a serious risk of a bust if Trumpist protectionism becomes truly heavy. “That extremely loose working theory seems as good as any.”

HMRC harangue

In a damning report ordering the taxman to get tough with the super-rich, MPs on the parliamentary public accounts committee have claimed that HMRC’s failure to clamp down on rich tax dodgers is undermining confidence in the whole system, said Rajeev Syal in *The Guardian*. The report accused the Revenue of giving the impression that there was “one rule for the rich and another for everyone else”. HMRC countered that the rich get extra scrutiny, not special treatment; but MPs said that claim didn’t stack up.

They may have a point, said Andrew Ellson in *The Times*. Six years after giving Britain’s 6,500 richest people “customer relationship managers”, HMRC appears to have collected £1bn less tax from them. Meanwhile, the noose has been tightening on “middle-class taxpayers”. HMRC imposed 143,000 penalties last year for people filing inaccurate information on their self-assessment tax returns – up from 55,000 fines levied in 2012. And figures released under Freedom of Information laws showed a sixfold increase in the number of fines for “deliberate understatement of income”, to nearly 30,000 last year. The spike suggests “a marked change in attitude at HMRC”, said George Bull of RSM Accounting, which obtained the figures. “It is clear that inspectors are now taking a much harder line. However, the taxman needs to be wary of the perception that he is engaging in ‘penalty farming’.”

Shetland's unlikely property boom

Editorial

The Economist

Trump's token attack on red tape

Gina Chon

Reuters Breakingviews

The Fred Goodwin problem

Nils Pratley

The Guardian

Embracing mess in the office

Tim Harford

Quartz

The Shetland Islands can sometimes seem “more Scandinavian than Scottish”, says *The Economist*. Yet they are “experiencing a very British phenomenon”: a booming housing market. Prices have doubled in real terms since 2003 – a larger rise than in any other part of Scotland, and more akin to the inflation seen in London’s “poshest borough”, Kensington and Chelsea. In contrast to other rural hot spots such as Cornwall, the Shetlands boom isn’t down to second-home ownership, which has actually fallen in the past decade. The more likely cause is oil. Aberdeen is Scotland’s oil and gas capital, but the Shetlands aren’t far behind, and “oil workers are a handsomely paid lot”. Between 2006 and 2016, wages on the islands rose three times as fast as in Britain as a whole; and “as islanders’ purchasing power has risen, so has competition over housing”. Will the boom last? Oil prices have tumbled and the Scottish economy has slowed, but Shetland “appears to have weathered the storm quite well”, and now hopes to cash in on “the next big thing”: the decommissioning of old oil rigs. “House prices may stay frothy for some time yet.”

Donald Trump is “talking a big game” about reducing business red tape, says Gina Chon, but on the evidence to date, his attack is “more PR than a purge”. The US president has ordered a cap on all new regulations by establishing a “one in, two out” rule – a nod to the system established in Britain in 2013, which required removing £2 of red tape for every £1 of new regulatory costs. Trump has hailed the UK experiment a success – a 2014 government report claimed it had saved businesses £2.2bn a year. But judging by Britain’s continued “uneven performance” in the World Bank’s annual “ease of doing business” survey, the edict’s efficacy has been “mixed”. Action is certainly needed in the US, which has fallen in the World Bank’s ratings. Yet Trump’s directive “is so general that it’s hard to decipher”, and omits crucial details such as how regulatory costs are measured. US firms are already “scrabbling” to assess the impact of the visa ban and likely changes to taxes and tariffs. “Rather than simplifying matters, the two-for-one order could sow more confusion.”

Glaxo chairman Sir Philip Hampton recently argued that highly-paid business people shouldn’t be given knighthoods, insisting it would be better to reserve the honours system for those who don’t get big bucks, says Nils Pratley. “Well said.” But Hampton (who got his own gong for “public service”) could have made a second point: you can’t judge a business career properly until it is over – and often only some time after that. Jumping the gun risks perpetuating the “Fred Goodwin problem”: the former RBS chief had to be stripped of his knighthood when the bank sank. Topshop owner Sir Philip Green still has his (for now), but even if he “eventually coughs up” for the BHS pension fund, it’s hard to imagine it would be awarded today. “Handing out mid-career gongs is like awarding medals for a marathon while the race is still in progress.” Most FTSE 100 directors’ contracts acknowledge the point; bonuses are subject to clawback clauses. But the idea of routinely clawing back knighthoods is absurd. Better just to drop gongs for business leaders completely.

Many of us are embarrassed by our cluttered desks, seeing them as “an externalisation of our internal chaos”, says Tim Harford. But productivity research has long shown that “pilers” frequently do better than “filers”. Tidy people tend to suffer from “premature filing” – their aversion to mess means they carefully stow away every document before they’ve understood what it means. The result? Filing cabinets that serve as “highly structured” rubbish bins, whose “useless” contents are valued mainly because the owner has “spent such a lot of time getting them organised”. Pilers, paradoxically, tend to have “lean, practical and well-used archives”, because they’re more likely to throw away paperwork (eventually). Their system is messy, but it works. The same is true of how we schedule work. The assumption is often that “well-structured daily plans” work better than “amorphous” monthly ones. But studies have shown the former to be “demotivating”; they’re often derailed by unexpected events. The bottom line is that any “rigid structure is inherently fragile”. It’s “better for both your peace of mind and your productivity to improvise a little”.

City profiles

Sir Christopher Bland

The former chairman of both the BBC and London Weekend Television, who has died aged 78, became “one of the big beasts of British broadcasting” – despite failing to land a job as a journalist on graduation, says *The Guardian*. He opted for business instead, joining first Currys and then the sewing machine company Singer, before becoming a managing director at management consultants Booz Allen Hamilton. When Bland – who fenced for Ireland at the 1960 Olympics, and later wrote a novel based on his Anglo-Irish family history – moved into TV, he was admired for his “brave, decisive” and “good-humoured” management. His “direct approach” contrasted with the “more ruminative” style then prevalent at the BBC. “Bollocks! Next question!” was a favourite retort.

Darren Woods



The new ExxonMobil boss’s task isn’t quite so daunting as that now facing his predecessor, Rex Tillerson – Trump’s nominee for US secretary of state. But it’s challenging enough, says Ed Crooks in the FT. Woods’ first set of results, delivered this week, featured “lower than expected earnings” and a sizeable asset write-down. Exxon’s size makes it “the apex predator” of oil giants, but Woods faces a dilemma. With growth sluggish, he has to decide if it’s worth doing “a transformational deal” like the one Exxon did with Mobil in 1999. Pouncing “would mean taking a risk” – possible targets including BP, Anadarko and Occidental are no longer the “bargains” they were. But the risk of standing still is another ten years of underperformance. Over to you, Darren.

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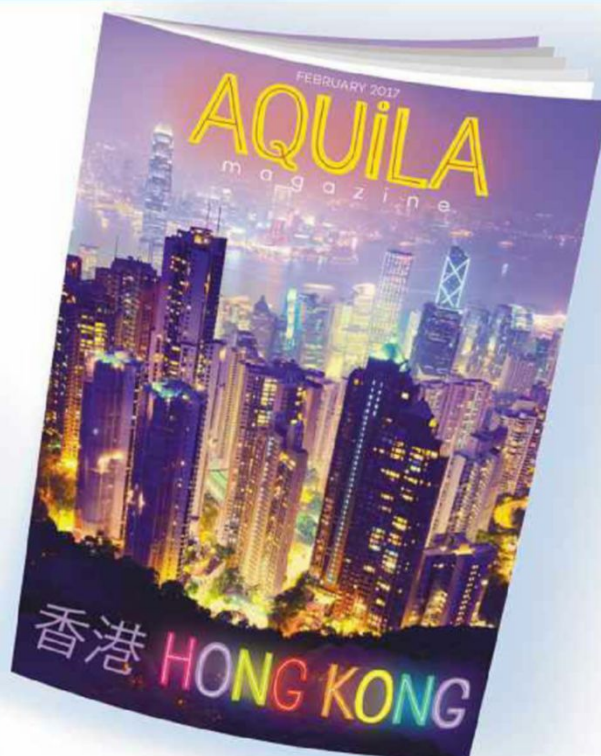
RICHARD ROBINSON,
BRIGHTON SCIENCE FESTIVAL



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February: Hong Kong

This month AQUILA has an oriental flavour!

Hong Kong's rags to riches history is a wonderful mix of *East meets West*. We celebrate the Chinese New Year by making a Rooster Kite, some yummy Wonton soup and a lunar calendar. Includes letters from AQUILA's Hong Kong subscribers, puzzles, competitions and serious F.U.N!

Who's tipping what

The week's best buys

BlackRock World Mining*The Daily Telegraph*

With a highly experienced management team and a decent record, this commodities trust looks to be a good way "to play a metals and mining theme". It could benefit from a US infrastructure boost. Buy. 372.5p.

Hargreaves Lansdown*The Daily Telegraph*

The wealth manager is a high-quality business with a reputation for excellent service. Cash-generative and exceptionally profitable, with an improving dividend – and it should benefit from changes to pension rules. Buy. £13.21.

Headlam Group*Investors Chronicle*

Strong trading (with rising sales of 4.7% in the UK, and 3.6% in Europe) has prompted the floor-covering specialist to upgrade its revenue and profit forecasts. There's a cash pile, and shares are cheap. Buy. 521p.

South32*Investors Chronicle*

This Australian metals and mining group, spun out of BHP Billiton in 2015, has a spread of essential steel-making niche commodities, and good nickel exposure. A cash pile and decent dividend prospects add to the appeal. Buy. 155p.

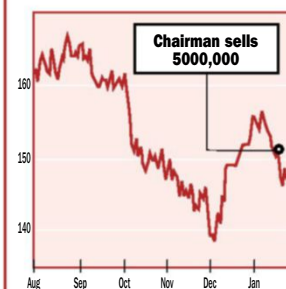
Unilever*The Times*

The household goods giant has been hit by weak consumer demand in Europe and problems in India and Brazil. But Unilever is resilient, margins have advanced and the share falls look overdone given its strengths. Buy. £32.27.

WHSmith*The Times*

WHSmith continues to grow and is opening new overseas airport shops. The travel division is up by 5%, boosted by the lower pound and store openings. Strong cash generation is funding a share buy-back scheme. Buy. £15.84.

Director's dealings

LondonMetric Property

This FTSE 250 REIT specialises in distribution warehouses and is enjoying high occupancy rates and rising rental income.

Non-executive chairman Patrick Vaughan has pocketed £754,581 from share sales. He retains 13.3 million shares.

SOURCE: INVESTORS CHRONICLE

...and some to sell

Antofagasta*The Times*

Shares in the Chilean copper group have soared in the last year. But, despite hopes of a Trump-led infrastructure boost, uncertainty persists owing to the construction slowdown in China. Take profits. Sell. 837p.

McBride*The Times*

McBride supplies private-label household and personal care products to supermarkets across Europe and is benefiting from the weak pound. But revenues overall have shrunk, and import costs are set to rise. One to avoid. Sell. 161p.

N Brown Group*Investors Chronicle*

The fashion retailer has had a better quarter, but this "does not make a turnaround". Promotions helped fuel growth, but margins are still in decline, and there's little clarity on currency impact. Sell. 211p.

Ocado*Risers & Fallers*

HSBC analysts are still doubtful about prospects for the online grocer and have reiterated their "reduce" stock rating. The new target of 200p suggests a potential 18% decrease in market value. Sell. 244.7p.

Standard Life*Sharecast*

UBS has downgraded the insurer, citing expected earnings pressure from increased outflows from Standard Life Investments, which will be difficult to reverse in the near term. Sell. 351.1p.

William Hill*Sharecast*

UBS worries that the market has not priced in downside risk for the bookmaker's online business, which it views as "stretched". The bank notes that app downloads have fallen. There are also regulatory risks. Sell. 276.8p.

Form guide

Shares tipped 12 weeks ago

Best tip**Revolution Bars Group**

Investors Chronicle
up 28.76% to 197p

Worst tip**Topps Tiles**

The Times
down 17.94% to 83.5p

Market view

"The market narrative has shifted once again. For the past three months, a Trump presidency has been heralded as great for stocks. Now... a bout of selling has engulfed markets."

Chris Beauchamp of IG Group. Quoted on Citywire

Market summary

Key numbers for investors

	31 Jan 2017	Week before	Change (%)
FTSE 100	7099.15	7150.34	-0.72%
FTSE All-share UK	3858.26	3879.54	-0.55%
Dow Jones	19810.08	19863.28	-0.27%
NASDAQ	5577.92	5571.82	0.11%
Nikkei 225	19041.34	18787.99	1.35%
Hang Seng	23360.78	22949.86	1.79%
Gold	1212.80	1216.08	-0.33%
Brent Crude Oil	56.22	55.66	1.01%
DIVIDEND YIELD (FTSE 100)	3.68%	3.65%	
UK 10-year gilts yield	1.42	1.40	
US 10-year Treasuries	2.45	2.44	
UK ECONOMIC DATA			
Latest CPI (yoy)	1.6% (Dec)	1.2% (Nov)	
Latest RPI (yoy)	2.5% (Dec)	2.2% (Nov)	
Halifax house price (yoy)	+6.5% (Dec)	+6.0% (Nov)	

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Best and worst performing shares

WEEK'S CHANGE, FTSE 100 STOCKS

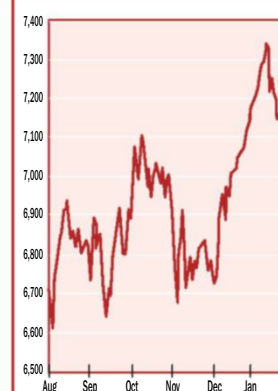
RISES	Price	% change
Paddy Power Betfair	8345.00	+5.10
DCC	6395.00	+4.49
Convatec Group	245.90	+3.54
London Stock Ex. Gp.	3171.00	+3.16
Ashtead Group	1606.00	+2.69
FALLS		
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	1824.00	-4.55
Barclays	219.45	-4.02
Associated Brit. Foods	2386.00	-3.98
Smurfit Kappa Gp.	2081.00	-3.92
Unilever (UK)	3227.50	-3.74

BEST AND WORST UK STOCKS OVERALL

URU Metals	2.17	+89.13
Torotrak	0.86	-51.55

Source: Datastream (not adjusted for dividends). Prices on 31 Jan (pm)

Following the Footsie



6-month movement in the FTSE 100 index

How humanity got hooked on sugar

It produces a burst of energy and a feeling of profound pleasure, followed by a life-long craving for more. It is cheap, widely-available – and children love it. Gary Taubes reports on how sugar became the world's most popular drug

Imagine a drug that can intoxicate us, can infuse us with energy and can be taken by mouth. It doesn't have to be injected, smoked or snorted for us to experience its sublime effects. Imagine that it mixes well with virtually every food and particularly liquids, and that when given to infants it provokes a profound feeling of pleasure. In clinical trials, it is more effective in soothing the distress of infants than the mother's breast, and breast milk itself. Overconsumption of this drug may have long-term side effects, but there are none in the short term – no staggering or dizziness, no slurring of speech, no heart palpitations or respiratory distress. More than anything, it makes children happy, at least while they're consuming it. It calms their distress, focuses their attention and leaves them excited and full of joy until the dose wears off. The only downside is that children will come to expect another dose, perhaps to demand it, on a regular basis.

How long would it be before parents took to using our imaginary drug to calm their children when necessary, to alleviate discomfort, to prevent outbursts of unhappiness, or to distract attention? And once the drug became identified with pleasure, how long before it was used to celebrate birthdays, a football game, good grades at school? How long before no gathering of family and friends was complete without it, before major holidays and celebrations were defined in part by the use of this drug to assure pleasure? How long would it be before the underprivileged of the world would happily spend what little money they had on this drug rather than on nutritious meals for their families?

This is of more than academic interest, because the response of entire populations to sugar has been effectively identical to that of children: once people are exposed, they consume as much sugar as they can easily procure. The primary barrier to more consumption – up to the point where populations become obese and diabetic – has tended to be availability and price. As the price of a pound of sugar has dropped over the centuries, the amount of sugar consumed has steadily, inexorably climbed. The critical question, as the journalist and historian Charles C. Mann has elegantly put it, “is whether [sugar] is actually an addictive substance, or if people just act like it is”. This question is not easy to answer. Until recently, nutritionists studying sugar did so from the natural perspective of viewing it as a nutrient – a carbohydrate – and nothing more. They occasionally argued about whether or not it might play a role in diabetes, or heart disease, but not about



Sugar makes children happy – but only for a while

“In clinical trials, sugar is more effective in soothing the distress of infants than the mother’s breast”

sweetener to tea, coffee and chocolate, and prices allowed it, the consumption of these substances in Europe exploded. Sugar was used to sweeten spirits and wine in Europe as early as the 14th century; even cannabis preparations in India and opium-based wines and syrups contained sugar. As for tobacco, sugar was, and still is, a critical ingredient in the American blended-tobacco cigarette, the first of which was Camel. It's this “marriage of tobacco and sugar”, as a sugar-industry report described it in 1950, that makes for the “mild” experience of smoking cigarettes as compared with cigars, and perhaps more important, that makes it possible for most of us to inhale cigarette smoke and draw it deep into our lungs.

Unlike alcohol – previously the only commonly available psychoactive substance in the old world – sugar, nicotine and caffeine had at least some stimulating properties, and so offered a very different experience, one that was more conducive to the labour of everyday life. These were the “18th century equivalent of uppers”, writes the Scottish historian Niall Ferguson. “The empire, it might be said, was built on a huge sugar, caffeine and nicotine rush – a rush nearly everyone could experience.” What Oscar Wilde wrote about a cigarette in 1891 might also be said about sugar: it is “the perfect pleasure. It is exquisite, and it leaves one unsatisfied. What more can one want?”

The roots of the modern discussion on sugar and disease can be traced to the early 1670s. Thomas Willis, medical adviser to the Duke of York and King Charles II, noted an increase in the prevalence of diabetes in the affluent patients of his practice. “The pissing evil”, he called it, and became the first European physician to diagnose the sweet taste of diabetic urine – “wonderfully sweet,

whether it triggered a response in the body that made us want to consume it in excess. That was not their area of interest.

Historians have often considered the “sugar as a drug” metaphor to be an apt one. “That sugars, particularly highly refined sucrose, produce peculiar physiological effects is well known,” wrote Sidney Mintz, whose 1985 book *Sweetness and Power* is one of two seminal English-language histories of sugar. Sugar is one of a handful of “drug foods”, to use Mintz's term, that came out of the tropics, and on which European empires were built from the 16th century – the others being tea, coffee, chocolate, rum and tobacco.

Its history is intimately linked to that of these other drugs. Rum is distilled, of course, from sugar cane. In the 17th century, once sugar was being added as a sweetener to tea, coffee and chocolate, and prices allowed it, the consumption of these substances in Europe exploded. Sugar was used to sweeten spirits and wine in Europe as early as the 14th century; even cannabis preparations in India and opium-based wines and syrups contained sugar. As for tobacco, sugar was, and still is, a critical ingredient in the American blended-tobacco cigarette, the first of which was Camel. It's this “marriage of tobacco and sugar”, as a sugar-

like sugar or honey”. Willis’s identification of diabetes and the sweetness of the urine coincided with both the first flow of sugar into England from its Caribbean colonies, and the first use of sugar to sweeten tea. In 1715 a rival physician, Frederick Slare, wrote his *Vindication of sugars against the charges of Dr Willis*. Slare did concede, however, that women who cared about their figures but were “inclining to be too fat” might want to avoid sugar, because it “may dispose them to be fatter than they desire to be”. When Slare made his observation, the English were consuming, on average, perhaps 5lb (2.3kg) of sugar a year. Today we consume from 20 to 30 times as much, depending on what organisation is doing the estimate.

Research literature on the question of whether sugar is addictive is surprisingly sparse. Sugar does induce the same responses in the region of the brain known as the “reward centre” as nicotine, cocaine, heroin and alcohol. Addiction researchers have come to believe that behaviours required for the survival of a species – specifically, eating and sex – are experienced as pleasurable in this part of the brain, and so we do them again and again. Sugar stimulates the release of the same neurotransmitters – dopamine, in particular – through which the potent effects of these other drugs are mediated. Because the drugs work this way, humans have learned how to refine their essence into concentrated forms that heighten the rush. Coca leaves, for instance, are mildly stimulating when chewed, but powerfully addictive when refined into cocaine. Sugar, too, has been refined from its original form to heighten its rush and concentrate its effects.

“There is little doubt that sugar can allay the physical craving for alcohol,” the neurologist James Leonard Corning observed over a century ago. The 12-step bible of Alcoholics Anonymous recommends the consumption of sweets and chocolate in lieu of alcohol when the cravings for drink arise. Indeed, the per capita consumption of sweets in the US doubled with the beginning of prohibition in 1919, as Americans apparently turned en masse from alcohol to sweets. Sugar and sweets came to saturate our diets as the annual global production of sugar increased exponentially. By the early 20th century, sugar had assimilated itself into all aspects of our eating experience, and was being consumed in breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Nutritional authorities were already suggesting what appeared to be obvious: that this increased consumption was a product of at least a kind of addiction – “the development of the sugar appetite, which, like any other appetite – for instance, the liquor appetite – grows by gratification”.

A century later, sugar has become an ingredient in prepared and packaged foods so ubiquitous it can only be avoided by concerted and determined effort. There is sugar not just in the obvious sweet foods – ice creams, chocolates, fizzy drinks and breakfast cereals – but also in peanut butter, salad dressing, ketchup, barbecue sauces, canned soups, processed meats, bacon, hot dogs, crisps, roasted peanuts, pasta sauces, tinned tomatoes and breads.

From the 1980s onwards, manufacturers of products advertised as healthy because they were low in fat, or specifically in saturated fat, took to replacing those fat calories with sugar to make them equally, if not more, palatable – often disguising the sugar under one or more of the 50 names by which the combination of sugar and high-fructose corn syrup might be found. Fat was removed from candy bars so that they became “health-food bars”, in spite of added sugar. Fat was removed from yoghurts, and sugars added, and these became “heart-healthy snacks”. It was as though



Thomas Willis, the physician to the king

the food industry had decided en masse that if a product wasn’t sweetened at least a little, our modern palates would reject it and we would purchase instead a competitor’s version that was.

The common tendency is to think of this transformation as driven by the mere fact that sugars and sweets taste good. The alternative way to think about this is that sugar took over our diets because the first taste, whether for an infant today or for an adult centuries ago, is a kind of intoxication; it’s the kindling of a lifelong craving, not identical but analogous to the effect of other drugs of abuse.

The traditional response to the how-little-is-too-much question is that we should eat sugar in moderation – not eat too much of it. But we only know we’re consuming too much when we’re getting fatter, or manifesting other symptoms of insulin resistance and metabolic

syndrome. Metabolic syndrome ties together a host of disorders that the medical community typically thought of as unrelated, or at least having separate and distinct causes – including obesity, high blood pressure, high blood sugar and inflammation – as products of insulin resistance and high circulating insulin levels. Regulatory systems throughout the body begin to misbehave, with slow, chronic, pathological consequences everywhere.

Once we have observed the symptoms of consuming too much sugar, the assumption is that we can dial it back a little and be fine – drink one or two sugary beverages a day instead of three; or, if we’re parenting, allow children ice cream on weekends only, say, rather than as a daily treat. But if it takes years or decades, or even generations, for us to get to the point where we display symptoms of metabolic syndrome, it’s quite possible even these apparently moderate amounts of sugar will turn out to be too much for us to be able to reverse the situation and return us to health. And if the symptom that manifests first is something other than getting fatter – cancer, for instance – we’re truly out of luck.

We have to acknowledge that the evidence against sugar is not definitive. Let’s say we randomly assigned individuals in our population to eat a modern diet with or without sugar in it. Since virtually all processed foods have sugar added, the population that is asked to avoid sugar would

simultaneously be avoiding virtually all processed foods as well. They would dramatically reduce their consumption of what food writer Michael Pollan has memorably called “food-like substances”; and if they were then healthier, there would now be a host of possible reasons why. Maybe they ate fewer refined grains of any type, less gluten, fewer trans fats, preservatives or artificial flavourings? We would have no practical way to know for sure.

Ultimately, the question of how much is too much becomes a personal decision, just as we all decide what level of alcohol, caffeine or cigarettes we’ll ingest. Former cigarette smokers (of which I am one) will tell you that it was impossible for them to grasp intellectually or emotionally what life would be like without cigarettes until they quit; that through weeks or months or even years, it was a constant struggle. Then, one day, they reached a point at which they couldn’t imagine smoking a cigarette and couldn’t imagine why they had ever smoked, let alone found it desirable. A similar experience is likely to be true of sugar – but until we try to live without it, we’ll never know.

Extracted from The Case Against Sugar by Gary Taubes, published by Portobello Books at £14.99.



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THE WEEK CROSSWORD 1041

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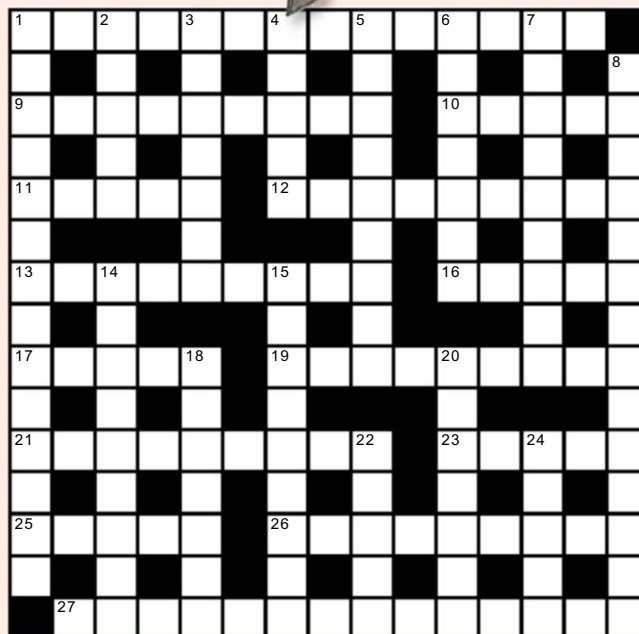
This week's crossword winner will receive an Ettinger (www.ettinger.co.uk) Croco four-hook key case, which retails at £94, and two Connell Guides (www.connellguides.com).

ACROSS

- 1 What's replaced a horse and cart etc. around west side of London? (7,7)
- 9 Not working after taking tea stops (6,3)
- 10 Chopper blade, whichever way round it goes (5)
- 11 Succeed with girl after chaps missing opening (5)
- 12 Mexican dish left in renovated hacienda (9)
- 13 Stationer disturbed by attacks (5,4)
- 16 Official at Chequers to some extent provides security on the door (5)
- 17 Ultimately sexist ass in America? (5)
- 19 Amateur players on ground (9)
- 21 Short supplement by Times upset immoderate politician (9)
- 23 Bone one's found in watering holes (5)
- 25 A test cut short in entrance halls (5)
- 26 First and second in one large country and another (9)
- 27 Defend liberty with onset of aggressive fighting or the opposite? (8,6)

DOWN

- 1 Asked for drinks, as lawyers may be (6,2,3,3)
- 2 Name seen on back of Flintshire vehicles? (5)
- 3 Drills used in coniferous trees spoken of (7)
- 4 Single bitter cases about... (5)
- 5 ...iron found in minister's house, communal dining room (9)
- 6 Warm, soft drink (7)
- 7 Unpopular Hindus tout cases for Reformation (9)
- 8 About to enter swimming area for a pause (9-5)
- 14 Queen repeatedly behind grown-up man of affairs? (9)
- 15 Position unfilled outside one declared invalid (9)
- 18 Anger shown in the loos, Ladies? (7)
- 20 Cost of former vice-president reportedly (7)
- 22 Present time with Dad mostly surrounded by child's gift (5)
- 24 Talk sheepishly about senior Middle Eastern port (5)



Name _____
Address _____
Tel no _____
Clue of the week answer: _____

Clue of the week: Err with maid getting knocked up? Did the honest thing maybe (7) *Azed, The Observer*

Solution to Crossword 1039

ACROSS: 1 Gaucho 5 Nightcap 9 Chitchat 10 Lets go 11 Considerable 13 Semi 14 Huntsman 17 Dismount 18 Ales 20 Vin ordinaire 23 Banner 24 Idolater 25 Leapfrog 26 Totter
DOWN: 2 Ache 3 Catechism 4 On hand 5 Notwithstanding 6 Galleons 7 Tetra 8 Angel cakes 12 Legitimate 15 Spare part 16 Murderer 19 Hit out 21 Own up 22 Cede

Clue of the Week: What arrives as August ends? Touch of autumn colour (5, first letters SE)
Solution: SEPIA (Sep 1 + A)

The winner of 1039 is Catherine Stekly of Royston

The Week is available on CD and via the e-text service from **National Talking Newspapers** on 01435-866102; www.tnauk.org.uk



Sudoku 585 (easy)

Fill in all the squares so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9

Solution to Sudoku 584

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

Puzzle supplied by **PUZZLE**

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