

TIME

RISE OF THE STRONGMAN

By Ian Bremmer



Clockwise from top: Vladimir Putin, Rodrigo Duterte, Viktor Orban and Recep Tayyip Erdogan

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A portrait of Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** and campaign flags urging passage of a referendum to increase his powers, seen on April 1, 2017

Photograph by **Chris McGrath**—
Getty Images

ON THE COVER:
Illustration by **Hellovon** for
TIME

A toast to influence

EACH APRIL AFTER WE PUBLISH THE TIME 100—OUR ANNUAL designation of the world's most influential individuals—we host a gala in New York City to celebrate the people on the list, alumni from past years and the transformative power of influence itself. It's an evening that brings together people of impact across a remarkable array of fields: Oscar winners and Olympians, artists and astronauts, chefs and CEOs, politicians and playwrights. One of the joys of working at TIME is the opportunity to get this extraordinary group into one room.

During the event, we ask some of the honorees to raise a glass to people who have influenced them. #MeToo movement founder Tarana Burke saluted survivors, who she said will "never be alone as long as I have a microphone." Bollywood sensation Deepika Padukone opened up about her four-year struggle with clinical depression. The actor Sterling K. Brown toasted the teacher who changed his life. Figure skater Adam Rippon gave a hilarious and touching tribute to his mother and to mothers everywhere. Nice Nailantei Leng'ete, who has helped save an estimated 15,000 women in Kenya and Tanzania from ritualized genital mutilation, toasted "all the strong people out there who are fighting to make sure that every young girl can become the woman of her dreams." They were followed by stellar performances from Shawn Mendes and Jennifer Lopez, who brought the house down with a rousing set that included a supporting role from her boyfriend, baseball legend Alex Rodriguez.



The self-portrait Alex Wind drew for an elementary-school assignment

One of my favorite moments at this year's gala came via TIME editor at large Jeffrey Kluger. Jeff was at a table with the courageous students from Parkland, Fla., who organized the worldwide March for Our Lives after a mass shooting at their high school. One of them, 17-year-old Alex Wind, told Jeff that he and fellow TIME 100 honoree Jaclyn Corin have been friends since grade school. A long-ago teacher recently sent them a copy of a project they had worked on in her class. The teacher had asked them to imagine what they would accomplish when they grew up. Alex and Jaclyn, who as we now know grew up much too quickly, drew pictures of themselves on the cover of TIME. (Both appeared on the real cover earlier this year.)

You can find videos from the evening and our full coverage at time.com/gala.

Edward Felsenthal,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
@EFELSENTHAL

The stars align

TIME 100 designees don't find out who was chosen to write about them until the issue goes live, which is just one of the reasons the reveal can be an emotional experience. Here's a glimpse at some of this year's most memorable social-media reactions:



'This is tough for me to wrap my head around. Thank you @JuddApatow for your kind words.'

KUMAIL NANJIANI, actor, responding on Twitter to the director's tribute to him



'It is the voices of the people of Puerto Rico that suffered and still do [that] are truly honored here.'

CARMEN YULÍN CRUZ, mayor of San Juan, P.R., on Twitter



'It was an honor to write about him. And an even greater honor to call him friend.'

AVA DUVERNAY, filmmaker, tweeting about her piece on TIME 100 member Ryan Coogler



'Apparently we are the first mom and son to be among the Time100. What an honor!!'

MIA FARROW, a 2008 TIME 100 honoree, about her son and 2018 honoree Ronan Farrow, on Instagram



'I am only able to be an influence for others because I have been fortunate enough to have some incredible people influence me.'

J.J. WATT, Houston Texans defensive end, on Twitter

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Conversation



What you said about ...

THE TIME 100, OUR ANNUAL LIST OF THE most influential people in the world, left many readers feeling hopeful. "I was disheartened about the state of the world until today when TIME's 100 Most Influential issue arrived," wrote Dick Rozek of Portsmouth, N.H. Dorothy J. Stubblebine of Deptford, N.J., found "great joy" in reading about women such as #MeToo founder Tarana Burke and fire chief Jan Rader. "I'm passing this issue along to my daughter and granddaughter," she added.

On the other hand, Everett Jones of Kingsport, Tenn., criticized the decision to have "GOP insiders" write the profiles of divisive conservative leaders, as with Senator Ted Cruz on President Donald Trump. And Sajeeb Wazed, a Bangladeshi government adviser, took issue with the citation for his mother, TIME 100 member Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, for the way it addressed the country's human-rights record. The author, who is Human Rights Watch's South Asia director, "barely knows her and has long been a government critic," Wazed wrote.

As for the future, readers already have lots of ideas for 2019: More classical musicians, said Richard W. Hooper of West Haven, Conn.; more scientists, said Seymour R. Levin of L.A.; more environmentalists, said Jeanie Scott of San Francisco. Jacqueline Lindeman of Bilthoven, in the Netherlands, suggested Rotterdam Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb—and Carlos Gaviola of St.-Germain-en-Laye, France, thought bigger, asking for a whole issue devoted to non-U.S. influencers.

Inside the gala

On April 24, dozens of the world's most influential people gathered at Manhattan's Jazz at Lincoln Center for the TIME 100 gala—and proved that stars can still get starstruck.



"INSPIRING" Singer Kesha, right, on activist Nice Nailantei Leng'ete



LIFESAVER Huntington, W.Va., fire chief Jan Rader



MEET THE PRESS From left, Hoda Kotb of NBC's Today, TIME editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal, Olympic medalist Adam Rippon and CBS This Morning's Gayle King

PALLING AROUND

This Is Us star Sterling K. Brown, left, and Master of None's Lena Waithe



YOUNGEST ON THE LIST Stranger Things star Millie Bobby Brown, 14

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ▶ In "The Masters of Mind Control" (April 23), we misnamed a psychologist at the University of Oxford. He is Andrew Przybylski. In that same issue, 6 Questions mischaracterized NBC's Lester Holt as the first black network news anchor. Max Robinson was an anchor of ABC World News Tonight from 1978 to 1983. Additionally, What you said about ... used an incorrect gender pronoun for Francis Piraino, who is a man.

'We were hoping she could have made it to 50 years old.'

LEANDA MASON, lead author of a study on trapdoor-spider population in Western Australia, after the death of the world's oldest known spider was revealed in the journal *Pacific Conservation Biology*; the spider was 43

'If someone was spending \$43,000 in my office, I would know about it.'

REPRESENTATIVE TONY CÁRDENAS, a Democrat from California, challenging EPA chief Scott Pruitt's claim that he "was not aware of" the approval of the purchase of a soundproof booth for his office, during a hearing on ethical concerns facing Pruitt

'THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL GET ITS SWAGGER BACK.'

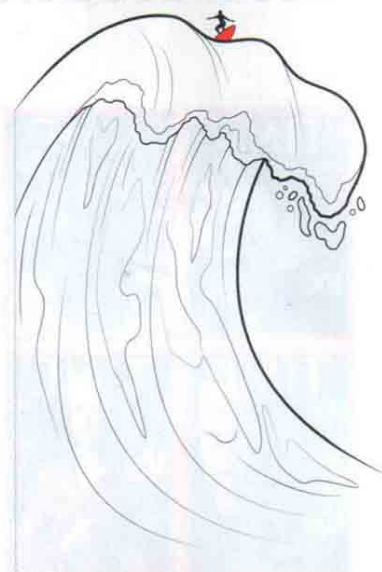
MIKE POMPEO, the new U.S. Secretary of State, in his first address to the State Department's diplomatic corps, on May 1

'This is going to be for building real long-term relationships, not hookups.'

MARK ZUCKERBERG, Facebook CEO, announcing that the social network plans to offer a dating service

1,475

Number of migrant children placed with U.S. sponsors by the Department of Health and Human Services whom the agency says it cannot now locate; the disclosure raises concerns about human trafficking



80

Height, in feet, of a wave ridden by surfer Rodrigo Koxa in Portugal last year; World Surf League officials announced on April 28 that he had set a new record for biggest wave ever surfed

'I wouldn't change a single word.'

MICHELLE WOLF, comedian, defending the stand-up routine she performed at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner

Ticks, fleas and mosquitos Illnesses spread by their bites are on the rise in the U.S.

520

Number of files pertaining to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy that will remain sealed because of national-security concerns; more than 50,000 other JFK records have been made public by the National Archives since last summer, in accordance with a federal law that required their release by October 2017



Ant-Man and the Wasp Marvel released a new trailer for the superhero flick that hits theaters in July

The Brief

**HANGING IN
THE BALANCE**
Iranian President
Hassan Rouhani
has said the
nuclear deal
is not up for
negotiation



INSIDE

LIGHTS GO ON IN THE LAST
VILLAGE TO BE CONNECTED TO
INDIA'S ELECTRIC GRID

QUESTIONS ABOUT QUESTIONS:
WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT ROBERT
MUELLER'S LEAKED LIST

REMEMBERING A
PHOTOGRAPHER KILLED ON A
DEVASTATING DAY IN KABUL

WORLD

Trump's dilemma on Iran deal: to nix, or fix

By Karl Vick

DIPLOMACY IS SUBTLE, ATOMIC SCIENCE complex. But the perceived villainy of Iran by the average American is the stuff of cartoons. At the time the nuclear deal with the Islamic Republic was signed by the U.S. and its five global partners in 2015, Gallup found 84% of the American public viewed Iran “unfavorably.”

The abiding antipathy the U.S. public feels toward Iran encouraged Donald Trump to attack the nuclear pact as a populist candidate. It also prompted Congress to give the U.S. President the levers to undo the deal, which lifted sanctions on Tehran in exchange for strict limits on its nuclear program. Skeptical lawmakers passed a law in 2015 requiring that any deal be “re-certified” every 90 days by the President. On May 12, Trump gets his hand on those levers again—and he seems to be on the fence about whether to finish it off.

International observers say there's no reason for Trump to vacillate. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U.N. body that conducts inspections, says Iran's nuclear program has been taken down precisely as promised. An enterprise that in 2015 could have produced a nuclear warhead within months has largely been dismantled and is closely monitored. The U.S.—plus China, Russia, Germany, France, Britain and the E.U.—all have gotten what they asked for.

Trump wants more. His Administration argues that the deal is fatally flawed because it's not permanent. After a decade, Iran would be allowed to resume enriching some uranium, and go back to basically business as usual after 15 years. “That's not acceptable. [2025] is tomorrow,” Trump said at an April 30 press conference. But he added: “That doesn't mean we won't renegotiate a real agreement.” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John Bolton, both hawks on Iran, have said the May 12 decision hinges on finding a credible way to do that.

ONE PERSON intent on having his say is Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who took to the airwaves from Tel Aviv on April 30 to unveil what he described as an intelligence coup: 55,000 pages and 183 discs carried out of Tehran warehouses by Mossad agents. Netanyahu,

who opposes the pact, described in detail what outside observers, including the IAEA, had known for years—that Iran had once pursued a nuclear weapon, dubbed Project Amad. Tehran failed to disclose this, but U.S. and other negotiators were more interested in what Iran would do in the future. But Netanyahu's damning message (IRAN LIED, spelled out in giant letters) could provide the thin reed for a President in search of a premise for discarding the pact.

In fact, Netanyahu's presentation had been quietly coordinated with the White House. “We had discussions with Israel about their rollout,” Sarah Huckabee Sanders told *TIME* the next day. Even so, some understood Netanyahu's prop-heavy presentation to be a lobbying effort directed at a visually oriented—and undecided—President. “He spoke in English rather than Hebrew because he has an audience of one,” says David Makovsky, a scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.



At a presentation in Tel Aviv on April 30, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of hiding its nuclear program

Honoring the pact would burnish the President's credibility in talks with North Korea, where credibility may be crucial: Kim Jong Un has signaled he will “denuclearize” if the U.S. promises not to invade. But French President Emmanuel Macron says Trump is not afraid of risking a second showdown: “His experience with North Korea is that when you are very tough, you make the other side move and you can try to go to a good deal or a better deal,” Macron said on April 25, after a White House visit.

“That's a strategy of increasing tension. It could be useful.”

IRAN, FOR ITS PART, says the pact is not open for renegotiation, and that it will walk away from it if Trump does. “We need to expect a change in the country's situation,” said Mohammad Bagher Nobakht, a spokesman for President Hassan Rouhani on May 2. Iran's leaders are ambiguous about whether they would resume a weapons program in the event of the deal's collapse, raising fears about U.S. airstrikes and a regional arms race. Saudi Arabia has vowed to build nukes if Iran does. But Iranian political analysts say undoing the nuclear deal will almost certainly be a boon to the hard-line conservatives who opposed it all along. Rouhani, a moderate, has no choice but to brace for impact. “We are ready for a change in the situation,” Nobakht said, “and the necessary policies and funds for the days different from today have been prepared.” Anyone holding out hope for a more favorable perception of Iran in the U.S. should prepare to be disappointed. The only thing simple about Iran is how Americans feel about it. — *With reporting by KAY ARMIN SERJOIE/TEHRAN; ILENE PRUSHER/BOCA RATON, FLA.; BRIAN BENNETT/WASHINGTON*



VERDICT RENDERED Caroline Heldman, Lili Bernard and Victoria Valentino, three of the dozens of women who have accused Bill Cosby of sexual assault, embrace after a jury in Norristown, Pa., found him guilty on April 26 of drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand. The case was one of the first high-profile sexual-assault trials to take place since the #MeToo movement began.

THE BULLETIN

India's last village goes electric, but millions still see dim returns

EVERY VILLAGE IN INDIA NOW HAS ACCESS to electricity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on April 29, one day after a remote village in Manipur, northeast India, was added to the national grid. It was a symbolic victory for Modi, who promised in August 2015 to electrify every Indian village within 1,000 days. He described April 28 as a "historic day in the development journey of India"—but more work is needed to bring the country fully into the electric age.

CHARGING AHEAD Modi was elected in 2014 on the back of pledges to modernize rural areas and improve living standards. At that time, roughly 270 million people in India lacked electricity—accounting for just under a third of the global access deficit. The gap hindered economic growth, education and health care. But while Modi has hit his target, the government only requires 10% of a village's houses and public places to be electrified to count. By that standard, nearly 97% of India's roughly 600,000 villages already met the criteria in 2014.

IN THE DARK Millions of Indians, particularly in remote villages, still rely on dangerous kerosene lamps. Just six of India's 29 states, including Kerala and Gujarat, have all homes on the grid, according to recent government data. In poorer states such as Jharkhand, more than half of households have no power lines, while those that do experience hours of blackouts every day.

AMPING UP Modi has announced a \$2.5 billion plan to electrify all households by the end of December 2018—just a few months ahead of parliamentary elections. The challenge is steep: poorer Indian households struggle to afford the high cost of electricity; the Modi government would need to install connections at a much faster rate; and state-owned power companies are already saddled with debt. But with states like Uttar Pradesh, where 44% of households lack electricity, holding the biggest representation in Parliament, Modi is hoping that fulfilling his promise of "Power for All" will lead his party to a bright political future.

—KATE SAMUELSON

NEWS TICKER

U.K. appoints new Interior Minister

Sajid Javid became Britain's Home Secretary following Amber Rudd's resignation over a **scandal involving treatment of the "Windrush" generation**, migrants from former Caribbean colonies who filled labor gaps after World War II but have recently been threatened with deportation. Javid is the first nonwhite person to hold the high-ranking Cabinet post.

T-Mobile and Sprint plan megamerger

U.S. telecom giant T-Mobile agreed April 29 to buy its rival in a \$26 billion deal. The move would **narrow the U.S. wireless market to three major carriers**. The companies scrapped a previous merger in 2014 over regulatory challenges, and the current deal must also pass muster with regulators to become official.

Museum: Half our paintings are fakes

An investigation into the collection at the Terrus Museum, an art museum dedicated to the work of the painter Étienne Terrus in Elne, France, found **82 of its 140 paintings were fakes**. Elne's mayor said the discovery was a "catastrophe."

NEWS TICKER

Trump delays tariffs for allies

President Trump said on April 30 that he would postpone imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from **Canada, Mexico and the European Union**. The U.S. and its allies will now have another month to negotiate a final agreement.

Australia to spend \$379M on Great Barrier Reef

Australia has pledged \$379 million to rescue the ailing Great Barrier Reef, in what is the **country's largest-ever single investment** in reef conservation. The fund will include plans for reducing pollution and fighting the spread of crown-of-thorns starfish—a poisonous coral-eating predator.

Ashley Judd sues Harvey Weinstein

The actor Ashley Judd says Harvey Weinstein damaged her career after she rejected his sexual advances. Judd's suit, filed on April 30, **accuses the disgraced producer of defamation and sexual harassment**, among other allegations. It claims that Peter Jackson did not cast her in his *Lord of the Rings* series "as a direct result" of Weinstein's influence.

GOOD QUESTION

What do Mueller's inquiries for Trump tell us about his probe?

IN A TOWN NOTORIOUS FOR LEAKING, special counsel Robert Mueller's team has been a striking exception to the rule. Since launching its investigation last May into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, the team of federal prosecutors has been tight-lipped, tipping its hand only when unveiling an indictment or announcing a guilty plea.

While the source of the April 30 leak has not been revealed, that made the more than four dozen questions Mueller's office would like to ask President Trump especially revealing. The questions, which probe everything from the firings of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and FBI Director James Comey to potential campaign coordination with Russia, represent the clearest indication yet about the focus and scope of the investigation as well as the perils it may pose to the President.

Prosecutors say the wording of the questions makes it clear that the special counsel is particularly interested in whether Trump obstructed justice. "Before there was a very rational expectation that there was a lot of focus on the obstruction issue," says Preet Bharara, the former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York who was removed by the Trump Administration last year after he refused to resign from his post. "If these are the questions they intend

to put to the President directly, then it erases all doubt."

Mueller may never get the chance to ask them. Trump has said he would "love to" talk with Mueller under oath, but outside advisers and some of his own lawyers have advised him not to, with one warning ominously that it could be a "perjury trap." Giving misleading answers under oath was one of the reasons former President Bill Clinton was impeached.

Trump responded to the leaked questions by claiming they vindicated him, tweeting that there were no questions about collusion (there are, in fact, 13) and that it's "very hard to obstruct justice for a crime that never happened." (Obstruction charges do not require that an underlying crime be proved.)

While the tweets show Trump's current mind-set, many of the questions are focused on what Trump was thinking when he took action at important moments during his presidency, like firing Comey. That's because intent is a key element of any obstruction charges—which is why prosecutors say an interview with Trump is essential. "One of the easiest ways to get to someone's state of mind, to determine guilt or innocence, is to question them directly," Bharara says.

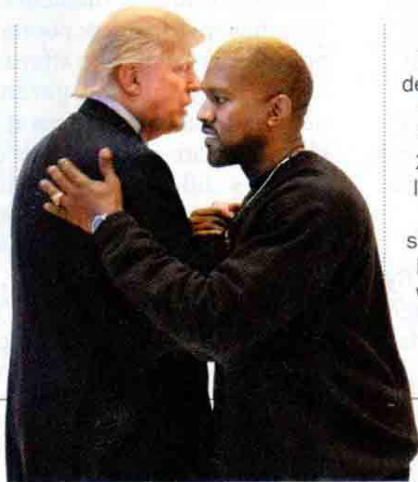
If the questions provide a road map for the Mueller inquiry, the interrogation might still go differently if the President ever decides to sit down with the special counsel. "These strike me as a proxy, even though they're very specific, for areas they might want to explore," Bharara says. "I don't think these are precisely the questions that are gonna be asked." —ALANA ABRAMSON

MUSIC

Hail to the Chief

After taking heat for his political tweets, rapper Kanye West defended his pro-Trump views in a track released on April 27. Here, other artists who made presidential points. —Abigail Abrams

JAMES BROWN
The singer released "Funky President (People It's Bad)" in the tumultuous year of 1974. He said the song was about President Gerald Ford, who had recently taken over the White House from Richard Nixon.



DIXIE CHICKS
The country group denounced President George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq in 2003. Three years later, they released the unapologetic single "Not Ready to Make Nice," which won them multiple Grammy Awards.

KILLER MIKE
The rapper's 2012 song "Reagan" compares the conservative hero to both Bushes, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, suggesting that all of them promoted war and mass incarceration.

DIED

Tim Bergling, the Swedish DJ and electronic-dance-music producer known as Avicii, on April 20 at 28. In a statement, his family said he "could not go on any longer."

➤ **Edward Jamieson**, a former executive editor of TIME, on April 18 at 88. He began working at the magazine in 1955.

SUED

The Trump Administration, over its failure to **end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program**, by Texas and six other states. President Trump announced an end to the Obama-era immigration program last year, but DACA's repeal has been delayed on the order of federal judges in other states.

DRAFTED

The first one-handed professional football player of the modern NFL era, linebacker **Shaquem Griffin**, by the Seattle Seahawks on April 28.

HIRED

Former NASA chief scientist **Ellen Stofan**, to direct the National Air and Space Museum. She became the first woman to hold the job when she started on April 30.

BANNED

Guns, at Vice President Mike Pence's address to the **NRA's annual meeting** on May 4. When the NRA announced the Secret Service rule before the event, the group saw pushback from gun owners and cries of hypocrisy from critics.



Friends and relatives of Marai at his grave in the village of Guldara

KILLED

Shah Marai Courage behind the camera

By Massoud Hossaini

WHEN NINE JOURNALISTS WERE AMONG THE AT LEAST 25 people killed in a double suicide bombing in Kabul on April 30, I saw the blast through my camera. It was only because of luck that I survived, and then another photographer was shouting at me. "Marai is dead," he said. "Marai is dead."

My friend Shah Marai, Agence France-Presse's chief photographer in Afghanistan, had a passion for his work that is rare to find in a war zone. He was calm and courageous, just trying to take his pictures. At 41, he was a mentor for younger photojournalists in Kabul, having joined AFP as a driver in 1996, five years before the Taliban was ousted, and later building a career with the agency to support his family.

After the attack, which the United Nations said was part of a "deliberate targeting of journalists," I went to my office and sent my pictures. Marai was dead and I had to do my job, to say what had happened. In the afternoon, we went to his village, north of the city. Then we buried him. He had promised to bring all the local photographers there, to eat and be together in a good place, but it never happened until his funeral. During the prayers, I was looking at the sky and waiting for rain. If the rain came, it would mean Marai was crying, that even the clouds were crying.

Hossaini is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist, now with the Associated Press

DIED

Larry Harvey The flame of Burning Man

IN A *MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S Dream*, William Shakespeare's characters enter a forest to find that the rules and reality of their daily lives no longer apply. Larry Harvey, founder of the Burning Man festival, was well aware of the disorienting magic that can come from a change of scenery. By the end of his life, his annual anti-establishment jubilee was drawing tens of thousands to Nevada's Black Rock Desert each year, allowing foolish mortals to temporarily live outside the bounds of capitalism, convention and even clothes.

Harvey died at age 70 on April 28 in San Francisco after suffering a stroke at his home weeks earlier. It was at a beach in that same city that 32 years before, he and his friend Jerry James first gathered a small crowd to celebrate the burning of a gasoline-soaked effigy of a man. The ritual soon outgrew the city and eventually inspired an even bigger mythology, one that people used as an inspiration for art and an excuse to party in a place known as Black Rock City. Whichever they came, it was Harvey's most rare vision that brought them there.

—KATY STEINMETZ



The classic British pub is trying to survive challenging times

By Kate Samuelson/London

LIKE MANY BRITISH SEPTUAGENARIANS, DAVID CHARLES Graves lived alone. The 75-year-old, who was known to everyone as Charlie, had no close friends or family, but regulars at his local pub, the Ivy House in Nunhead, in southeastern London, often saw him sipping a pint of Beck's lager at the bar.

Charlie's attachment to his local public house will resonate with many Britons. As far back as Roman times, when roadside inns offered comfort to travelers, pubs have occupied a unique place at the heart of British society. In Shakespeare's time, there was roughly one pub for every 200 people, and they feature in several of his plays. George Orwell's famous 1946 essay "Moon Under Water," describing the 10 key points of his ideal pub, notes that alongside draft stout, open fires, a garden and no radio, "the barmaids know

most of their customers by name, and take a personal interest in everyone."

Today pubs still play a part in alleviating social isolation, particularly among elderly Britons like Charlie.

Research by the University of Oxford shows that they can improve people's engagement with their community and affect how satisfied people feel in life.

Pubs are also a high-ranking tourist attraction. According to the tourist board Visit Britain, going to a pub is the third most popular activity for visitors to the U.K. Over time, the pub

has become a symbol of the national spirit, and themed British pubs can be found in cities around the world.

Imagining Britain without pubs is like thinking of France without cafés, New York City without bodegas or Tokyo without karaoke bars. But this defining national cornerstone is under threat. From 2007 to 2015, the U.K. saw nearly 7,000 pubs close, thanks to higher taxes, rising staff wages and falling visitor numbers. The decline hasn't stopped; according to the *Morning Advertiser*, one of the U.K.'s leading trade newspapers for the pub sector, two public houses now close their doors for good every day. Is the good old British pub on its way to extinction?

PUBS HAVE BEEN declining in number for decades, but many believe England's 2007 smoking ban, which put an end to smoking in all enclosed public and work places, exacerbated the trend. "A lot of pubs closed, and many had to redefine themselves," says Brigid Simmonds, chief executive of the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA), a major trade association. Some so-called wet-led pubs—which only served drinks—branched out to offer food and

Pubs provide a cross between a coffee shop, a restaurant and a church.'

TIM MARTIN,
founder of pub chain
JD Wetherspoon



The Churchill Arms in London attracts crowds. But not every pub is doing well

accommodation; pubs now serve a billion meals a year and have 50,000 bedrooms attached to them.

But converting to a gastropub or inn is not an easy fix. Many pubs are located in Victorian, Edwardian or other historic buildings, which bind them to rigorous planning restrictions. These restrictions disincentivize investors who may have otherwise been interested in converting failing drinking dens into more profitable establishments. Climbing real estate prices, particularly in London, make pubs attractive prospects for developers—that is, if they have the permission to knock them down and build apartments instead.

Competition is also getting fiercer. Around 20 years ago, there were roughly 70,000 premises licensed to serve alcohol in the U.K.; today around 50,000 pubs and 70,000 other premises, from restaurants to coffee shops, have an alcohol license. "The sheer growth in the eating-out market over recent years means there's massive



competition,” says John Longden, founder of Pub is the Hub, a nonprofit that offers support to licensees. “And now the younger market is saying, ‘Actually, we’re not drinking.’”

Indeed, government research published in May 2017 demonstrates a generational shift away from alcohol consumption; 26% of the U.K.’s 16-to-24-year-olds are teetotalers, compared with just 17% of 25-to-44-year-olds and 14% of those ages 45 to 64. Tastes are changing in other ways too; beer consumption is falling, with more than half of 25-to-34-year-olds now favoring wine instead. A Nielsen poll found that sales of sparkling wine surged by 14.7% in 2016, and an overview by the Wine and Spirit Trade Association that same year found that nearly half of all drinks sold in new pubs, bars and restaurants were wine and spirits and not the more traditional pints of froth-topped ale.

A great disparity between the cost of alcohol in pubs and supermarkets is another issue; when six 275 ml bottles of Beck’s lager cost £5.10 (\$7) in Tesco,

one of Britain’s biggest supermarket chains, spending the same amount if not more on one pint in a pub is not a particularly attractive prospect. “If you want pubs to survive decades down the road, then it’s common sense that you can’t tax them more heavily than what is the market rate,” says Tim Martin, founder and chairman of pub group JD Wetherspoon, which has 900 establishments around the British Isles.

All this is in the shadow of Brexit, the U.K.’s looming March 2019 exit from the European Union, bringing with it uncertainty and division. Some pub owners believe Brexit could turn things around for them; a poll conducted shortly before the 2016 referendum found that more small-food-service operators said they would vote to leave rather than remain. Martin was a major Brexit backer; he even printed 200,000 coasters calling for the U.K. to “take back control.” He believes that without the E.U.’s high tariffs on food and drink imports, their prices will decrease and pubs will flourish.

However, as with much of the service industry, Brexit is likely to have a considerable impact on pubs’ workforces. In 2016, hospitality-intelligence firm Fourth Analytics estimated that 43% of workers in the hospitality industry come from overseas; in more metropolitan areas, this proportion can be even higher. It is still unclear whether these “soft-skilled” workers will be allowed to remain in Britain after March 2019; the government is in the process of assessing the economic and social contributions of E.U. migrants and isn’t due to report back on its findings until September of this year.

“We need to make sure people who are currently here can stay here,” says Simmonds, whose BBPA did not have an official position during the referendum. “We have to ensure Brexit isn’t only about highly skilled, highly paid workers.”

THESE CHALLENGES are forcing pubs to think creatively. Pub is the Hub advises licensees on providing a range of services, from building shops, libraries and post offices, to providing meals for local schools or

the elderly. One pub in southwestern England even introduced a community playground designed entirely by children, with a bar serving mud and a “bug hotel.” Pub is the Hub claims to have helped nearly 500 pubs across the U.K. offer 27 different services, helping them stay afloat.

Communities are increasingly stepping in to save their local drinking establishments. Six years ago, the Ivy House—Charlie’s local pub—narrowly avoided being turned into an apartment block thanks to a group of residents who spent more than a year fighting to bring it under community ownership. In 2012, it became the first cooperatively owned pub in London, under a policy introduced two years earlier permitting local residents to nominate buildings and land for listing as “an asset of community value.” Once listed, the community may have the opportunity to bid to take control of the asset if it is put up for sale. There are now roughly 60 cooperative pubs open and trading in the U.K., and the number is likely to grow.

Innovations like these have been key to keeping pubs alive in an increasingly competitive marketplace. “Pubs provide a cross between a coffee shop, a restaurant and a church. It’s hard to define the attraction, but you know it when you see it,” says Martin.

Going to the pub no doubt made the Ivy House’s Charlie feel part of his community. When he stopped turning up for his regular pint last summer, locals began asking after him. Eventually, it transpired that he had fallen ill and passed away. The Ivy House managers decided to hold a memorial service for him and were shocked when about 150 pub regulars turned up to pay their respects to a man they barely knew. It’s a testament to the role that the pub has played in British communities for generations, says Matt Soper, secretary of the Ivy House management committee.

“I knew how many people knew him but didn’t realize how many would show up,” he told TIME. “It was proof of how successful this place has been—not just in business terms, but in the sense of being true to the spirit of a real community pub.” □

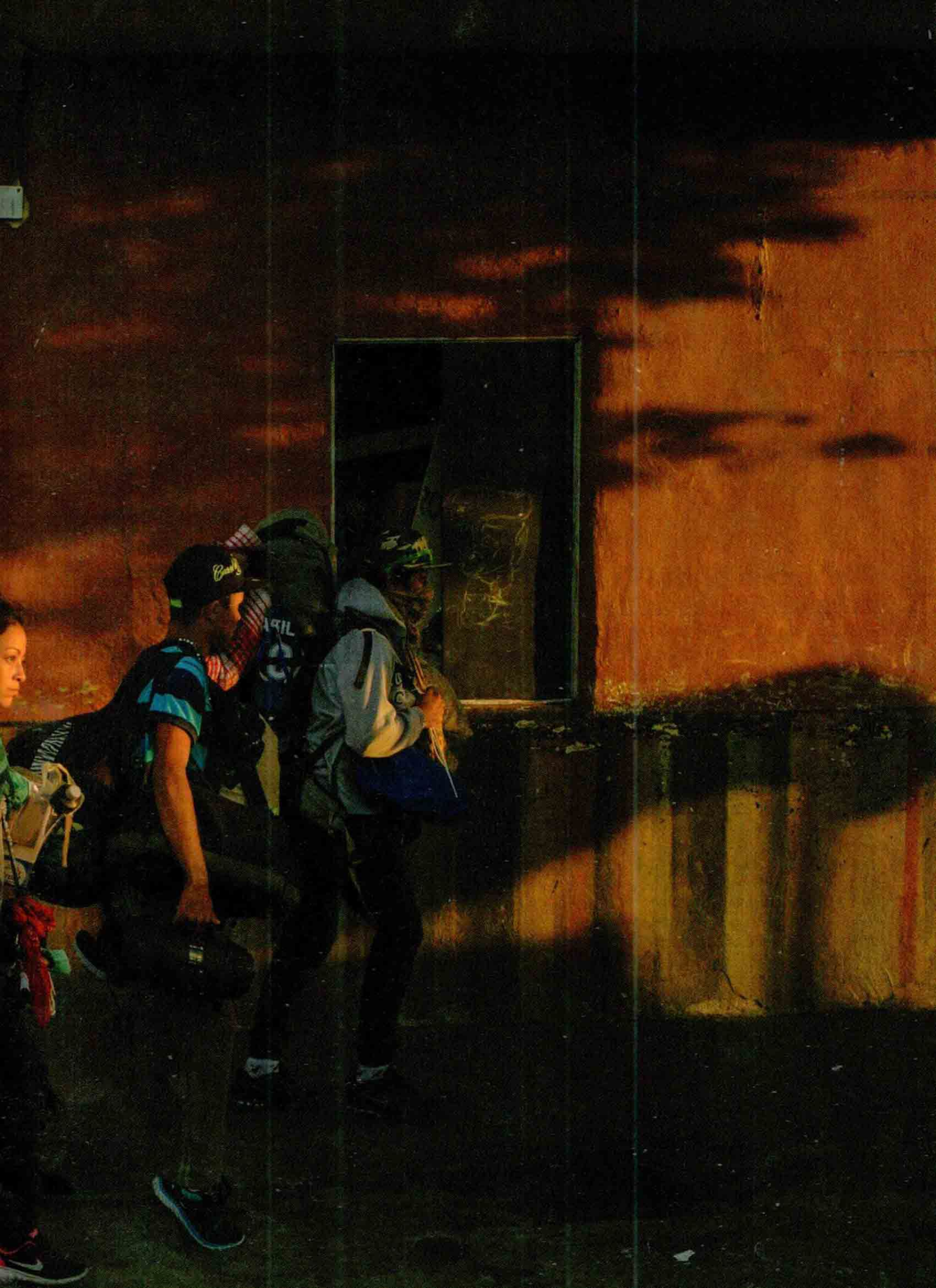
Barrier to entry

As a caravan of Central American migrants made their way across Mexico over the past month by bus, foot and freight train, President Trump vowed they would be turned away at the U.S. border. And when about 150 reached the San Ysidro port of entry, the nation's busiest, on April 29, they were told it was at capacity. The migrants—several of whom are seen here walking to a shelter in Tijuana five days earlier—said they feared for their lives in their home countries, some of which have among the highest murder rates on the globe. On April 30, a handful were allowed into the San Ysidro port to begin the asylum application process. That night Trump tweeted that “openly defying our border shows how weak & ineffective U.S. immigration laws are.”

Photograph by Meghan Dhaliwal—The New York Times/Redux

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you asked

Is listening to music good for your health?

If you're looking for an easy way to shift your mind-set, cue the music. Studies have shown that music can buoy mood, fend off depression and improve sleep. It can also ease pain and lower levels of stress-related hormones like cortisol. How can listening to music do so much good? Music seems to "selectively activate" neurochemical systems and brain structures associated with positive mood, emotion regulation, attention and memory, says Kim Innes, a professor of epidemiology at West Virginia University's School of Public Health. But choose your tunes carefully. A song's rhythm can influence heart rate and brain activity, says Daniel Levitin, a psychology professor at McGill University in Canada. And research shows that listening to music that agitates or unsettles you can trigger stress, anger and sadness. "There's no one piece of music that will do the same thing for everyone," Levitin says, but tracks with a slow tempo, gradual chord progressions and drawn-out notes tend to be calming, while chaotic, up-tempo tunes tend to have the opposite effect.

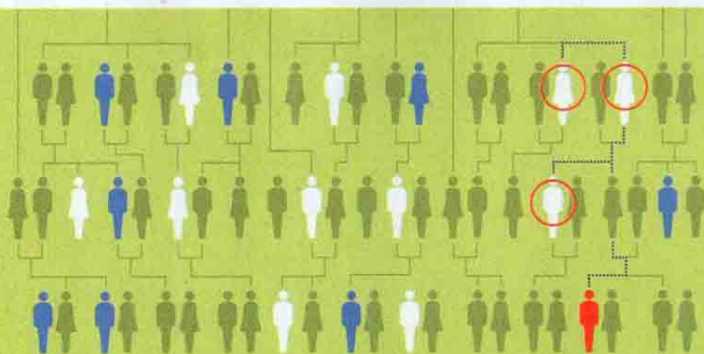
—Markham Heid

46%

Percentage of the 20,100 respondents who say they always or sometimes feel alone, in a new survey of loneliness in the U.S. by Cigna

CATCHING A KILLER

Your DNA may be more public than you realize. Here's how authorities used technology and crime-scene DNA to break open a decades-old case.



1

Many arrested and convicted people are logged in an **FBI genetic database**. Investigators found no match there.

2

Some citizens publicly share their **genealogies on websites**, which anyone can access by uploading data.

3

Investigators used these sites to find **distant relatives** who shared genetic traits with the DNA evidence.

4

Authorities zeroed in on a **suspect** and obtained his DNA. It matched the crime-scene DNA. They arrested him.

The arrest of the Golden State Killer puts DNA sites in the spotlight

By Jamie Ducharme

POLICE RECENTLY ARRESTED THE SUSPECTED Golden State Killer using a tool they could only have dreamed of decades ago, when a gruesome spree of rapes and murders shook California: a database filled with people's genetic data.

Investigators used an obscure open-source database called GEDmatch to find relatives who matched genetic material taken from an old crime scene, then worked backward to pinpoint and arrest 72-year-old former police officer Joseph James DeAngelo.

GEDmatch's 950,000 users voluntarily upload and share their genetic information, making it accessible to others who share their own data—including law enforcement. More than a dozen other similar platforms also exist. "If your relatives have contributed and you are part of even a family tree that appears online in one of these shared resources, you can be indirectly tracked through the combination of their DNA and the publicly available family history," says Dr. Robert Green, a medical geneticist at Harvard Medical School.

Data submitted to commercial companies like 23andMe, which has over 5 million customers, is much tougher for outsiders to access, but the case has still

highlighted the issue of genetic privacy.

Although many genetic-testing companies have been asked to cooperate with legal investigations, and clearly warn customers of this possibility, not all requests are honored. "23andMe has never given customer information to law-enforcement officials," a company representative told TIME.

The stakes of keeping such sensitive data private are high. The potential for abuse exists; for example, insurance companies could theoretically use genetic data to refuse coverage, Green says. But the systems in place to prevent misuse appear to be working. One is the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, a 2008 law that protects consumers from employment and insurance discrimination related to genetics. As long as that's the case, Green says, the good of genetic tests outweighs the bad.

Sharon Zehe, an attorney for the department of laboratory medicine and pathology at the Mayo Clinic, takes a more cautious approach. "Genealogy services can be fun, but make sure you are using a reputable organization that has robust privacy policies in place," she says. "A DNA sequence is the biometric equivalent of a fingerprint." □

The View

WORLD

KIM JONG UN'S FAMILY VALUES

By Charlie Campbell/Beijing

It's official: North Korea is moving into the future. On April 29, Kim Jong Un's regime announced that it would shift its clocks forward 30 minutes on May 5, to unify with South Korean time—one of several conciliatory gestures decided at the historic talks between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. After a meeting oozing with symbolism ▶

INSIDE

RETIRED ADMIRAL JAMES STAVRIDIS ON AMERICA'S NEXT MOVES WITH KIM JONG UN

A COMEDIAN ANALYZES THE POLITICAL MEDIA AND THE PRESIDENT'S SENSE OF HUMOR

AN AUTHOR CONFRONTS THE LINGERING EFFECTS OF LYNCHING

The View Opener

at the riven peninsula's demilitarized zone (DMZ), the North and South also agreed to restart reuniting families, open a liaison office and put an end to the Korean War, which officially is still being waged, as only an armistice, rather than a peace treaty, was ever signed.

"A new history begins now," Kim wrote in the visitor's book of the DMZ's Peace House as the first North Korean leader to visit the South. "An age of peace, at the starting point of history."

Despite all the optimism, the summit's description of denuclearization was kept vague, leaving observers to guess what Kim might want in return. According to South Korean officials, Kim said he would offer up his nuclear arms in exchange for a nonaggression pact with the U.S. But top American officials have signaled that they're skeptical of the rhetoric.

For North Korea to abandon nuclear weapons would require a fundamental change in its founding and governing precepts. Bylaws of North Korea's all-powerful Workers' Party define its purpose as to complete the revolution and "liberate" the South, while those who oppose the party are "enemies of the people."

Besides, North Korea's founder, Kim Il Sung, had a signature philosophy of *juche*, best defined as patriotic self-reliance. This would seem impossible to reconcile with accepting promises of nonaggression from age-old nemesis the U.S. Kim Jong Il—son of Kim Il Sung and father to the current Supreme Leader—added his own philosophy of *songun*, or "military first," which built on *juche* while wrapping in elements of Marxism, Leninism, militarism, neo-Confucianism and realism. In a nutshell: raw power conquers all.

"From that perspective, they are the ultimate realists in the traditions of Machiavelli and Hobbes," says Daniel Pinkston, an East Asia expert at Troy University in South Korea. "They have this obsession or fetish of power. Every political outcome is determined by power and power asymmetries."

This hasn't changed with the third-generation Kim, who took up the regime

reins in 2011 and introduced his own political philosophy in March 2013 to cement his revolutionary credentials: *byungjin*, which means to "advance in tandem," referring to the nation's nuclear program and economy.

North Korea has already made tremendous progress in both. The regime now has a nuclear-armed international ballistic missile that experts believe can devastate any U.S. city. By relaxing state control over the economy, North Korea experienced 3.9% growth in 2016—its fastest rate of this century—despite ever-tougher sanctions.

But how does one square *byungjin* with disarmament? Socialist revolutionary doctrines are not policies to be tweaked or discarded, but distillations of a leadership's eternal will. Even when announcing the dismantlement of his only known nuclear testing site—which Kim since said would take place in May, with South Korean officials watching—he described the weapons it had spawned as a "treasured sword."

Lest we forget: North Korea already signed a denuclearization agreement with South Korea in 1992. And with the U.S. in 1994. And with the "six-party talks" participants in 2005. And with the Obama Administration in 2012.

The North Korean regime has inculcated every strata of society with the need of nuclear weapons to keep them safe and complete the revolution in the South. A 2012 constitutional amendment described the nation as a "nuclear-armed state." To abandon its nukes "is something so radically revolutionary that it's analogous to the Pope abandoning Jesus Christ and adopting Buddhism," says Pinkston.

There is still reason to try again, especially because the military "option" is nothing of the kind, given that Pyongyang's conventional, chemical, biological and nuclear retaliation could lay waste to Seoul, Tokyo and now even Los Angeles or Washington. But denuclearization will take a titanic feat of patience and trust-building. On May 5, North Korea's clocks will leap forward by half an hour. For the regime to truly leave its past behind won't be so easy. □

Socialist revolutionary doctrines are not policies to be tweaked or discarded

POLICY

U.S. imperatives on North Korea

By James Stavridis

Seven pointers for the U.S. as it prepares for potential negotiations with Kim Jong Un's regime and South Korea.

1. Listen to the South Koreans. And spend less time focusing on Kim Jong Un. They have a clear-eyed view of him and the dystopian kingdom that he rules with cruelty and harsh despotism.

2. Involve more nations. Despite a tendency to want all the credit if we can solve this, the U.S. needs to get China to the table—and potentially Japan and Russia too.

3. Give President Trump backup. Even with his negotiating experience, our diplomatic and military teams have to fully engage. Nominating Admiral Harry Harris Jr., the outgoing commander of U.S. Pacific Command, for U.S. ambassador to South Korea would be superb.

4. Decide what we'll accept. The U.S. should approve a limited arsenal, with an inspection regime and a diminution of the ballistic missiles. If the U.S. is not going to do so (which Trump has said), we should be prepared to walk away.

5. But don't rush away. Be patient. Reaching zero North Korean nuclear weapons would likely require a multiyear negotiation and an even longer period of dismantlement, verification and inspection, perhaps lasting five to 10 years.

6. Hope for the best; plan for the worst. The U.S. better be ready to "fight tonight" if necessary. This is no time to reduce U.S. and South Korean training and exercises. We need close military coordination with other Pacific allies and NATO. We have detailed military plans that need to be validated and resourced.

7. Verify, then start to trust. Whatever our red lines, we need to commit to them and see real action from North Korea before reducing sanctions. Whichever way this goes, there will be an ever higher premium on intelligence and surveillance. In all senses of the phrase, we will need to keep an eye on what happens next.

Stavridis was the 16th Supreme Allied Commander at NATO and is dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University

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The View First Person

Learning about lynching helped heal my wounds

By Issac J. Bailey

IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME BEFORE I REALIZED THAT MY family's struggles had not simply materialized out of thin air—that although we have rightly never made excuses about our faults, they weren't evidence of ugliness running through our veins. My father beat my mother. My maternal grandfather beat my maternal grandmother. Moochie, my hero big brother, murdered a man. My youngest brother, Jordan, is serving 20 years in a federal prison. A nephew who was raised like a brother is in the middle of a 25-year sentence in a state facility. Another brother is serving 16 years.

I know now that a sense of shame convinced us as black people to not speak too loudly about our struggles, only to fuel a cycle of violence that led to more shame. You can't cure a disease you refuse to acknowledge. As I prepared to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, both of which opened to the public on April 26 and honor victims of lynching, I had a reaction I had not anticipated: a rage at the unbroken chain that connects slavery to my own life.

Before I read Mary Turner's story in Patrick Phillips' *Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America*, I didn't know they had lynched us and taught us to hate ourselves for not being able to perfectly navigate a terrorized land soaked in slave blood. In 1918 Georgia, Turner was hung from a tree by her ankles, doused with gasoline, set afire; her 8-month-old fetus was cut from her belly and stomped upon. She was lynched because she demanded justice for her husband, who himself had just been lynched. Countless others died like this because they dared to try to vote and organize black laborers or were deemed "uppity" in their attempts to exercise their rights. Many black men hung from trees after being falsely accused of raping white women, or for merely speaking to or glancing at them in a way that white men deemed inappropriate. A twisted hallucination, born of hate, became a justification for murder.

The rules between right and wrong were always morphing, intentionally illusive. To survive, we told ourselves that talking right or walking right or beating our kids enough to keep them in line would convince white people that we too were American, worthy, beautiful. But we were mistaken. So the shame grew, and we swallowed it.

LEARNING THE TURNER STORY, and others like it at the memorial and museum, helped alleviate my shame.

I know what my father did to my mother was wrong. I also have come to realize that society is steeped in institutional racism that shaped my parents in ways that we are still trying to recover from. My father was probably a 2-year-old when Turner was lynched in a neighboring state. I didn't understand that when I began despising him as a boy, scared and helpless in the corner of the kitchen watching him hit my mother.

What must it have been like growing up in a country that



NEW GROUND

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Ala., features a memorial square with 800 6-ft. monuments, representing each U.S. county in which a lynching occurred

The Legacy Museum, also in Montgomery, was built on the site of what was once a slave warehouse

hated you for possessing the wrong skin? That forced you to bow down to white boys and girls who routinely called you "nigger"? That legislated you out of an equal education and into the worst jobs and neighborhoods? All of it enforced by white neighbors and businessmen and pastors and judges and juries and prosecutors and sheriffs and policemen. What must it be like to see that, to this day, those people still often face no justice?

For all that we've seen change—in, yes, the wake of America's first black President—we forget how much we are surrounded by those who remain understandably wary of who we say we've become. When I worked as a columnist in South Carolina for a daily newspaper whose readership was mostly white and conservative, elderly black people would call to check on me. They spoke in whispers, as though they might be overheard. They explained to me why they feared I would be disappeared if I kept on criticizing the white governor and other officials. They were not joking. They had seen too much to dismiss what may feel to some like a remote possibility.


The museum in Alabama, as gut-wrenching as any ever conceived, is for all of us, but especially for those people. They will no longer have to speak in hushed tones about what happened. An unflinching portrayal of the hell they lived through is public confirmation that their lives still matter, that what they survived was real, as are the lingering effects of the trauma.

They, like me, were taught in public schools with history books written by a descendant of a Confederate soldier who spent more time suggesting that black people were satisfied under Jim Crow than exploring the decades-long aftershock of slavery. They, like me, have witnessed more than their share of violence. The lynching monuments can't erase the rage and the shame and the fear that remain. But by correcting the historical record, they allow a deeper healing to begin. I have felt it myself.

Bailey is the author of the forthcoming memoir My Brother Moochie: Regaining Dignity in the Face of Crime, Poverty, and Racism in the American South

Nation

THE FBI ON TRIAL





*Former FBI
director James
Comey leaves a
Senate hearing on
June 8, 2017, after
testifying about
Donald Trump*

**ESPIONAGE FAILURES.
MISSED MASS SHOOTINGS.
PRESIDENTIAL ATTACKS.**

**THE BUREAU HAS A CRISIS
OF CREDIBILITY—AND
AMERICA IS PAYING THE PRICE**

BY ERIC LICHTBLAU

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN VOSS

IN NORMAL TIMES, THE TELEVISIONS ARE HUMMING

at the FBI's 56 field offices nationwide, piping in the latest news as agents work their investigations. But these days, some agents say, the TVs are often off to avoid the crush of bad stories about the FBI itself. The bureau, which is used to making headlines for nabbing crooks, has been grabbing the spotlight for unwanted reasons: fired leaders, texts between lovers and, most of all, attacks by President Trump. "I don't care what channel it's on," says Tom O'Connor, a veteran investigator in Washington who leads the FBI Agents Association. "All you hear is negative stuff about the FBI ... It gets depressing."

Many view Trump's attacks as self-serving: he has called the renowned agency an "embarrassment to our country" and its investigations of his business and political dealings a "witch hunt." But as much as the bureau's roughly 14,000 special agents might like to tune out the news, internal and external reports have found lapses throughout the agency, and longtime observers, looking past the partisan haze, see a troubling picture: something really is wrong at the FBI.

The Justice Department's Inspector General, Michael Horowitz, will soon release a much-anticipated assessment of Democratic and Republican charges that officials at the FBI interfered in the 2016 presidential campaign. That year-long probe, sources familiar with it tell TIME, is expected to come down particularly hard on former FBI director James Comey, who is currently on a high-profile book tour. It will likely find that Comey breached Justice Department protocols

in a July 5, 2016, press conference when he criticized Hillary Clinton for using a private email server as Secretary of State even as he cleared her of any crimes, the sources say. The report is expected to also hit Comey for the way he reopened the Clinton email probe less than two weeks before the election, the sources say.

The report closely follows an earlier one in April by Horowitz, which showed that the ousted deputy director of the FBI, Andrew McCabe, had lied to the bureau's internal investigations branch to cover up a leak he orchestrated about Clinton's family foundation less than two weeks before the election. (The case has since been referred to the U.S. Attorney's office in Washington, D.C., for potential prosecution.) Another IG report in March found that FBI retaliation against internal whistle-blowers was continuing despite years of bureau pledges to fix the problem. Last fall, Horowitz found that the FBI wasn't adequately investigating "high-risk" employees who failed polygraph tests.

There have been other painful, more public failures as well: missed opportunities to prevent mass shootings that go

beyond the much-publicized overlooked warnings in the Parkland, Fla., school killings; an anguishing delay in the sexual-molestation probe into Olympic gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar; and evidence of misconduct by agents in the aftermath of standoffs with armed militias in Nevada and Oregon. FBI agents are facing criminal charges ranging from obstruction to leaking classified material. And then there's potentially the widest-reaching failure of all: the FBI's miss of the Russian influence operation against the 2016 election, which went largely undetected for more than two years.

In the course of two dozen interviews for this story, agents and others expressed concern that the tumult is threatening the cooperation of informants, local and state police officials, and allies overseas. Even those who lived through past crises say the current one is more damaging. "We've seen ups and downs, but I've never seen anything like this," says Robert Anderson, a senior official at the FBI who retired in 2015.

The FBI's crisis of credibility appears to have seeped into the jury room. The number of convictions in FBI-led investigations has declined in each of the last five years, dropping nearly 11% over that period, according to a TIME analysis of data obtained from the Justice Department by researchers at Syracuse University. "We've already seen where the bad guys and witnesses look at those FBI credentials, and it might not carry the same weight anymore," says O'Connor.

Indeed, public support for the FBI has plunged. A *PBS NewsHour* survey in April showed a 10-point drop—from 71% to 61%—in the prior two months among Americans who thought the FBI was "just trying to do its job" and an 8-point jump—from 23% to 31%—among those who thought it was "biased against the Trump Administration."

The FBI, of course, continues to do good work. On April 25, local authorities in Sacramento and the FBI announced the dramatic arrest of the Golden State Killer. That same day it helped bust 39 people in Pennsylvania in a cocaine-trafficking investigation, 14 prison employees in South Carolina in a bribery case and two men in New Jersey in a \$5.3 million tax-evasion probe. Assistant FBI Director William F. Sweeney Jr.,

THE NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS IN FBI-LED PROBES HAS DECLINED IN EACH OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS

who runs the New York field office and oversaw the April 9 raid against Trump's personal lawyer Michael Cohen, says his agents' response to the turmoil has been to "double down and [say], 'Hey, we're gonna keep on moving.'"

Some question whether the FBI has gotten too big and has been asked to do too many things. After 9/11, then FBI director Robert Mueller, who is now the special counsel leading the Russia probe, made massive new investments in counterterrorism and intelligence, shifting resources and investigative focus from white collar crime and bank robberies.

Many of the bureau's woes developed on Comey's 3½-year watch. They extend beyond the most visible controversies, like the Clinton email and Russia investigations, to his costly confrontation with Apple over unlocking an iPhone used by one of the terrorists in the San Bernardino, Calif., shooting in 2015, and beyond. Critics say Comey's penchant for high-profile moral fights has, ironically, undermined the bureau's reputation. Trump himself has used that line of argument to challenge the FBI.

Democrats have questioned the integrity of the bureau as well, with Clinton and her aides claiming Comey and the FBI helped tip the election to Trump. But the biggest difference between past crises and the current one, according to virtually everyone interviewed for this article, is the President. Trump has continually attacked the integrity of the institution and its leaders, alleging not just incompetence but bad faith in the commission of justice. Ronald Hosko, who retired in 2014 after 30 years at the bureau, compares the moment to a wildfire, saying Trump "is either the spark that creates the flames, or he's standing there with a can of gas to stoke the flames."

The bureau's current director, Christopher Wray, recently said his first priority is to "try to bring a sense of calm and stability back to the bureau." But the FBI is facing one of the greatest tests of its 110 years. In the coming months, it must fix a litany of internal problems, fend off outside attacks on its trustworthiness and pursue investigations touching on a sitting President, at the same time a growing number of Americans are asking themselves: Can we trust the FBI?

THE WATCHDOG REPORTS

The Justice Department Inspector General's office has long exposed problems at the FBI, uncovering counterterrorism and other abuses after 9/11, when Robert Mueller was director. Since he took over in 2012, IG Michael Horowitz has often targeted FBI misconduct.

1. **During the post-test phase of a polygraph examination, an FBI Information Technology (IT) Specialist admitted to using FBI equipment to view and print photographs of scantily clad adult women, some of which the employee stated depicted partially naked women. Following this admission, the AIU initiated an investigation in part to review the IT Specialist's potential misuse of FBI computer systems. During an**

SEPT. 26, 2017

Horowitz identified possible "systemic" problems in the FBI's lax treatment of employees who posed "high-risk security concerns." One computer specialist with top-secret clearance admitted to viewing pornography on his work computer and conversing secretly with a "foreign national" for months but faced no discipline or follow-up investigation.

MARCH 14, 2018

The IG urged better training for FBI supervisors on laws protecting whistle-blowers from retaliation after unidentified supervisors threatened a technician who had reported misconduct. Two earlier investigations in 2016 also documented retaliation against whistle-blowers, which has been a long-standing problem.

on May 9, 2017, year 5-year personnel security
We concluded that McCabe lacked candor during an INSD interview under oath on May 9, 2017, when he **falsely told the agents that he had not authorized the disclosure to the WSJ** and did not know who did.

Two INSD investigators

MARCH 27, 2018

After the 2015 San Bernardino shooting, then director Comey confronted Apple in testimony and got a court order to force de-encryption of the perpetrator's iPhone. A two-year probe by the IG found that the FBI had "only just begun" looking for its own solutions when it filed the court order. The bureau ultimately cracked the phone without Apple.

APRIL 13, 2018

A scathing report found that former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe authorized a leak about an FBI investigation into the Clinton Foundation less than two weeks before the 2016 election, then lied repeatedly in sworn statements, denying it. Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired McCabe on March 16, barely a day before he was set to retire.

During the investigation, the OIG also found that the SA divulged law enforcement sensitive information to unauthorized individuals; misused his government issued electronic devices; provided misleading testimony during a related civil deposition; mishandled classified information; misused his position during contacts with local law enforcement officers; and provided false information to the OIG. Criminal prosecution of the SA was declined.

APRIL 30, 2018

An investigation found evidence that an unidentified agent had tried to tamper with witnesses in a criminal case, gave "misleading testimony" in a civil case, mishandled classified information and gave confidential law-enforcement information to people who shouldn't have had it. Yet criminal charges were "declined," the IG said.

MAY 2018

The IG is expected to release a much-awaited report scrutinizing the FBI's actions during the 2016 presidential campaign. Sources say the report will sharply rebuke then director Comey's unorthodox handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation that went against normal protocols.

MISSES AND MISSTEPS

The FBI has erred in a number of recent investigations. Those errors, experts say, have diminished the bureau's credibility.



LAND-RIGHTS STANDOFFS

Confrontations with anti-public lands militias in Nevada and Oregon led to accusations in court of misconduct by FBI agents, with one agent in Oregon now facing criminal charges for having allegedly lied about firing his weapon.



TEXAS TERRORIST ATTACK

In court, the FBI admitted that one of its undercover agents was present at a 2015 terrorist attack at a "Draw Mohammed" event and had previously told one of the ISIS-inspired attackers that he should "tear up Texas."

LAST MAY, McCabe, then the FBI's deputy director, sat down at the table in his seventh-floor office for a meeting with two agents from the inspections division. The agents had some questions about the Clinton Foundation leak just before the election. It was a quick meeting. McCabe, an FBI veteran who rose through the ranks over a 21-year career, told them he had "no idea" where the leak came from. The agents left after just five minutes or so, according to the Inspector General's April 13 report.

McCabe had offered that same basic assurance months earlier to his boss, then director Comey, investigators said, and had angrily lit into FBI officials under him, suggesting the Clinton leak had come from their offices and telling one senior agent in Washington to "get his house in order." But as it turned out, McCabe knew exactly where the leak had come from. He personally authorized it, Horowitz's investigators found, to counter charges that he favored Clinton. (His wife received \$467,500 from the PAC of a Clinton ally, then Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe, in a failed 2015 bid for state office.)

The McCabe findings have shaken the FBI. The bureau has massive power, and as a result, it has strict rules. Lying to investigators is considered a dire breach in an organization built on trust. The referral to the U.S. Attorney's office, which emerged a week after the report was released, could result in charges against McCabe of making a false sworn statement. He has challenged the findings, disputing even the most basic elements, like how many people were in the room. The IG said it did not find many of his objections credible, with some elements contradicted by notes taken contemporaneously by an agent. McCabe previously called his firing part of a "war

on the FBI" and the Russia investigation. But viewed against the backdrop of other Horowitz reports, McCabe's alleged rule-breaking looks like part of a much larger problem.

In September, Horowitz found that bureau investigators had allowed employees with dubious polygraph results to keep their top-secret clearances for months or even years, posing "potential risks to U.S. national security." In one instance, an FBI IT specialist with top-secret security clearance failed four polygraph tests and admitted to having created a fictitious Facebook account to communicate with a foreign national, but received no disciplinary action for that. In late 2016, Horowitz found that the FBI was getting information it shouldn't have had access to when it used controversial parts of the Patriot Act to obtain business records in terrorism and counterintelligence cases.

Just as troubling are recent FBI missteps not yet under the IG's microscope. At 2:31 p.m. on Jan. 5, the FBI's round-the-clock tip center in West Virginia received a chilling phone call. The caller gave her name and said she was close to the family of an 18-year-old in Parkland, Fla., named Nikolas Cruz. Over 13 minutes, she said Cruz had posted photos of rifles he owned and animals he mutilated and that he wanted "to kill people." She listed his Instagram accounts and suggested the FBI check for itself, saying she was

'YOU LOOK AT THIS AND SAY, "YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME."'

—Robert Anderson, former FBI official

worried about the thought of his "getting into a school and just shooting the place up," according to a transcript of the call.

The FBI specialist checked Cruz's name against a database and found that another tipster had reported 3½ months earlier that a "Nikolas Cruz" posted a comment on his YouTube channel saying, "I'm going to be a professional school shooter." But neither tip was passed on to the FBI field agents in Miami or local officials in Parkland. After Cruz allegedly killed 17 people with an AR-15 rifle at his old school just six weeks later, the bureau admitted that it had dropped the ball and ordered a full review. "You look at this and say, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" says Anderson, the former FBI official.

The Parkland shooting was only the latest in a string of devastating misses. After Omar Mateen shot and killed 49 people at the nightclub Pulse in Orlando in June 2016, the FBI said it had investigated him twice before on terrorism suspicions, but shut the inquiries for lack of evidence. The year before, after Dylann Roof shot to death nine African-American parishioners at a South Carolina church, the FBI acknowledged that lapses in its gun background-check system allowed him to illegally buy the .45-caliber handgun he used in the massacre. And in 2011, the FBI received a tip from Russian intelligence that one of the Boston Marathon bombers had become radicalized and was planning an overseas trip to join radical Islamic groups. The FBI in Boston investigated him but found no "nexus" to terrorism.

The Orlando shooting provoked more second-guessing in late March, when the shooter's widow, Noor Salman, was acquitted on charges of aiding and abetting him and obstructing justice. The jury foreman pointed to inconsistencies in the FBI's accounts of the disputed



ROGUE TRANSLATOR

The FBI said one of its translators on a counterterrorism squad fell in love with a top ISIS propagandist she was tracking (Denis Cuspert, above), sneaked off to Syria to marry him and told him he was under investigation.



LARRY NASSAR

The FBI has opened an internal investigation to determine why reports of the Olympic gymnastics doctor's sexual abuse languished in three different bureau field offices for more than a year.



PARKLAND SHOOTING

Two different tipsters warned the FBI in the months ahead of the February 2018 shooting in Parkland, Fla., that the perpetrator might have been planning to shoot up a school. Seventeen people died in the attack.

admissions that agents said Salman had made, according to the *Orlando Sentinel*. The judge also scolded the government after an FBI agent contradicted the government's earlier claims that Salman and Mateen had cased the club.

THE CONCERNS about FBI testimony in a major terrorist prosecution underscore a larger question: Are people less likely to believe what the bureau says these days? In January, a federal judge threw out all the criminal charges against renegade Nevada cattleman Cliven Bundy, his two sons and a supporter who had been in an armed standoff over unpaid grazing fees. Judge Gloria Navarro accused the government of "outrageous" and "flagrant" misconduct, citing failures by both prosecutors and the FBI to produce at least 1,000 pages of required documents. The judge said the FBI misplaced—or "perhaps hid"—a thumb drive revealing the existence of snipers and a surveillance camera at the site of the standoff.

A related case in Oregon, growing out of the 2016 takeover of a wildlife refuge by Bundy's sons and their followers, has not gone well for the FBI either. An agent at the scene, W. Joseph Astarita, is now charged with five criminal counts after prosecutors say he falsely denied shooting twice at an occupation leader who was fatally shot by police, who said he appeared to be reaching for his handgun during a roadside encounter. The Bundy sons and five supporters who helped in the takeover were found not guilty of conspiracy and weapons charges, in another jarring setback for the government.

Some legal experts and defense advocates see the string of recent not guilty verdicts as a sign that jurors and judges are less inclined to take what the FBI says in court at face value. Data examined by

TIME support that conclusion. The number of convictions in FBI-led investigations dropped last year for the fifth consecutive year—from 11,461 in 2012 to 10,232, according to Syracuse University data, which was obtained under Freedom of Information Act requests.

Moreover, TIME's analysis shows a surprisingly low rate of success for the thousands of cases the FBI investigates and sends to the Justice Department for possible prosecution. Over that same time period, the Justice Department has ultimately won convictions in fewer than half the cases the FBI referred for prosecution, with a conviction rate of 47% last year, the data showed. That fell well below the average of 72% for all agencies. Prosecutors themselves have rejected many of the FBI's referrals before they ever got to court. The bureau's low success rate in these cases has remained largely unchanged in recent years.

Federal prosecutors still win the bulk of the thousands of cases they choose to bring based on FBI investigations. Justice Department spokesman Ian Prior says a variety of factors could play into the drop in prosecutions and convictions over the last five years, including "de-emphasizing" some crimes under Obama-era policies and cutbacks in prosecutors in recent years. Prior says that "judging the performance of the FBI based on a minuscule sample of cherry-picked cases" ignores its thousands of annual convictions.

Gina Nichols, a nurse in Minnesota, says she never had strong impressions one way or the other about the FBI until her daughter Maggie Nichols, who was a member of the national gymnastics team, reported three years ago that team physician Larry Nassar had molested her. Gina waited anxiously for the FBI

to contact her and interview Maggie. But no one did so for nearly a year as the case languished among different FBI field offices in Indianapolis, Detroit and Los Angeles. Nassar is believed to have molested dozens of additional victims over the course of that year. "It makes you sick," Gina tells TIME. "I have a child who was sexually abused for 2½ years by an Olympic doctor, and the FBI did nothing."

The FBI has opened an internal inquiry to determine why the Nassar investigations appear to have dragged on for so long. John Manly, a Southern California lawyer representing many of the women, says he is angry that no one from the FBI has contacted the victims to explain the delay. "Knowing that the best law-enforcement agency in the world knew exactly what he was up to and did nothing—I can't explain that to them," Manly says. "You've got people who were really hurt here, so fix it," he says.

PERHAPS THE EASIEST problems to address are the internal lapses. Experts say putting assets and management attention back to work on cyber, counterintelligence and traditional crime after Mueller shifted them to counterterrorism would help. "There's an overextension of the mission," says Brian Levin, a professor of criminal justice at California State University, San Bernardino, who has worked with the FBI. Most of Horowitz's reports include measures the FBI can take to address their problems, including stricter rules for investigating polygraph test failures and training to protect whistle-blowers.

A failure of imagination is harder to fix. Mueller's Russia probe has found that Moscow's operation against the 2016 election first got under way in 2014, but the FBI failed to grasp the scope and danger of what was unfolding. The bureau

missed the significance of the damaging 2015 hack of the DNC database. And when the Russian operation began to heat up in the summer of 2016, the FBI was always a step behind the Russians, struggling to understand intelligence reports they were getting about possible connections between Moscow and Trump aides. The bureau also sat on the disputed “dossier” prepared by former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele.

A report released on April 27 by Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee found that the FBI was slow to confront the election meddling, especially in its failure to notify U.S. victims of Russian hacking quickly enough. The committee also charged that the bureau’s decision to surveil former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page was influenced by politics. At the same time, the GOP has pointed to text messages between FBI special agent Peter Strzok and FBI lawyer Lisa Page, which were critical of Trump—as well as many Democrats—to argue the bureau is fundamentally biased.

FBI Director Wray says the bureau has started “specific activities” to prevent election meddling by Moscow, but outsiders worry that the U.S. remains vulnerable this fall and beyond.

The most important thing the FBI can do to fix itself? Follow its own rules. In his handling of the Clinton email probe ahead of the 2016 election, Comey acted without telling the Justice Department what he planned to do. Comey is expected to come under fire in the upcoming IG report for breaking with Justice Department rules and norms by assuming authority usually held by prosecutors and speaking in public about a case that did not produce criminal charges, sources with knowledge of the report tell TIME. He will likely also be criticized for weighing in so close to the election in a way that could impact the outcome, sources familiar with the investigation say.

On his book tour, Comey has defended his decisions as the best way out of a bad situation. Facing what he called “a series of no-win decisions,” Comey says he did what he thought was necessary and transparent to protect the integrity of both the FBI and the legal process in such a high-profile case.



AS HE FACES the crises at the FBI, Wray has told his senior aides to “keep calm and tackle hard.” Asked if recent misconduct cases concern Wray, FBI spokeswoman Jacqueline Maguire said the bureau’s 36,000 employees “are held to the highest standards of conduct—but as in any large organization, there may be occasions when an employee exercises poor judgment or engages in misconduct.” While she declined to discuss specific cases, Maguire said claims of misconduct are “taken seriously [and] investigated thoroughly,” leading to discipline when needed.

At FBI headquarters, agents and supervisors say they are keeping their heads down and focusing on their investigations. But the building is literally crumbling around them—Comey kept in his office a slab of concrete that had fallen off the side. Designs for a new complex

MANY OF THE BUREAU'S WOES DEVELOPED ON COMEY'S WATCH

FBI agents at the damaged rear wall of the nightclub Pulse, where Omar Mateen killed 49 people in June 2016

were scrapped in February. Visible across Pennsylvania Avenue from the main entrance, with J. Edgar Hoover’s tarnished name above it, is the gleaming, gold-plated sign on the newly renovated Trump International Hotel.

Trump’s attacks on the FBI have been filled with inaccuracies and innuendo, wrongly claiming on Twitter, for instance, that McCabe was in charge of the Clinton email investigation. Trump makes a point of praising rank-and-file agents, but his punches have landed inside the FBI and out. Some worry the damage may take years to repair. “I fear Trump’s relentless attacks on the institution are having an effect on the public’s confidence in the FBI,” says Matthew S. Axelrod, a senior Justice Department official in the Obama Administration.

Mueller may play an outside role in how his old agency gets through the current crisis. If the special counsel finds that Russia did collude with members of the Trump campaign—the central question in his investigation—and any perpetrators



are charged and found guilty in court, it would rebut Trump's charges of a "witch hunt." If Mueller finds no evidence of collusion, or declines to make it public, it would open the door for Trump and his campaign to paint the FBI as a band of partisan hacks with a reputation, as he has tweeted, "in tatters."

There may be no immediate way to fix a place with as many missions and masters as the FBI. One official, asked what it would take for the FBI to move past all the controversy, paused and said simply, "Time." Many hope that the extraordinary confluence of events that drew the FBI into the 2016 election will prove to be, as Comey called it, "a 500-year flood" that won't repeat itself anytime soon.

Others are doubtful. Jeffrey Danik, a retired FBI agent in Florida who now works with whistle-blowers at the bureau, blames the state of affairs on "a severe lack of leadership" and transparency at headquarters in owning up to recent mistakes. Those damaging failures, he says, "have just about pushed our incredible organization over the brink." For now, everyone inside and out who cares about the reliability of law enforcement in America is left hoping that the bureau has at least started on the road back. □

JUSTICE

James Comey's no-apology tour

By Michael Duffy

Over two short weeks, former FBI director James Comey has sold more than 600,000 copies of his new book, *A Higher Loyalty*, barnstormed the interview circuit and appeared frequently in public without a tie. For a former FBI director, any of these is a dramatic break from the norm.

So what does his book tell us? Chiefly this: that when President Trump asked Comey in February 2017 to "let" one piece of a criminal probe into the Russian influence operation against the prior year's presidential election "go," Comey declined, recorded the substance of the conversation in a memo and then, months later, leaked it to a reporter through a law professor. That move probably guaranteed that the federal probe into connections between Russia and the Trump campaign (and what, if anything, Trump knew about them) would continue.

Comey's book is a fast and timely read. It includes a useful reminder of the impossible national-security choices our leaders faced in the wake of 9/11, and is a rare primer in the many unwritten rules between all those lawyers at the Department of Justice and all those agents at the FBI. Those rules, unwritten or otherwise, were front-page news during and after the 2016 election, when Comey had the task of sorting out whether either or both of the two contenders to be the 45th President had broken the law.

First came Hillary Clinton: it fell to Comey and the FBI in mid-2015 to investigate whether Clinton broke the law in 2009 when she set up a private email system and discussed classified information on that channel while she was Secretary of State. Because Democrats expected him to exonerate her and Republicans expected him to indict her, Comey was probably toast from the get-go. At one point in the summer of 2015, talking to a nearby special agent, he said of his predicament: "Nobody gets out alive."

Comey argues there was no reason to charge Clinton in the email fiasco. Yet when he concluded the probe months later, in July 2016, Comey managed to upset both sides, by not

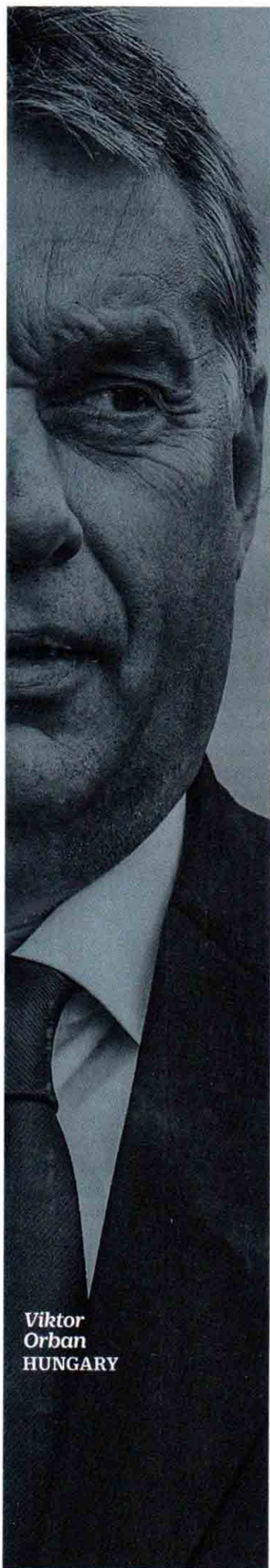
charging Clinton with a crime but still calling her handling of the classified information "extremely careless." A few months after that, the FBI briefly reopened the case just before the 2016 election. Although Comey again cleared Clinton, the controversy was center stage worldwide just hours before millions prepared to go to the polls. Many Democrats still blame Comey for Clinton's defeat.

IF THE COMEY and Clinton saga seemed like farce, his encounters with Trump were bizarre. Comey first met him during the transition at Trump Tower, where he informed the President-elect, among other things, about the efforts by Moscow to influence the 2016 election. It seemed odd to Comey that, with the top U.S. intelligence officials before him, Trump had no follow-up questions about the Russian threat or Moscow's next moves.

Trump soon upped his courtship of Comey, appearing neurotic about the Democrats, obsessed with the size of his Inauguration Day crowds and worried about allegations that he spent time with Russian prostitutes in 2013. Trump pleaded with Comey to back off Michael Flynn, the National Security Adviser who had been talking with Russian counterparts before Trump took office.

Readers quickly see that Trump can't count on Comey to be his errand boy; they may also conclude that Comey didn't handle his Trump meetings deftly. He should have skipped several of them entirely, and when he did attend, he should have pushed back harder at Trump's inappropriate demands. But it's not easy to speak truth to power, and Comey likely did not want to be fired prematurely; as it happened, he lasted only until early May. A few days later, Comey slipped his memo to a law-professor friend who made sure it found its way to the newspapers.

Mueller took over the Russia probe within days of Comey's firing. Given Mueller's cool and undramatic nature, Trump probably now wishes he had left Comey in place.



**Viktor
Orban**
HUNGARY



**Vladimir
Putin**
RUSSIA



**Rodrigo
Duterte**
PHILIPPINES



**Recep
Tayyip
Erdogan**
TURKEY

World

The Strongman Era

How tough guys came to rule the world
By Ian Bremmer

IN RESPONSE TO THE SOCIAL UPHEAVALS OF the 1960s, Hollywood produced a series of highly popular “angry man” crime dramas in the 1970s. These are the stories of vigilantes and renegade cops, played by the likes of Clint Eastwood and Charles Bronson, who push past weak-willed bureaucrats, corrupt politicians and political correctness to restore justice in violent times. These are men who never let law undermine order.

The U.S. is now emerging from another period of sweeping social change, economic anxiety, urban crime and pointless wars, which again has stoked demand for a tough-talking vigilante to pay weak-minded liberals a lesson. But this time, he isn’t a creation of Hollywood. He lives in the White House, and he’s playing his role with gusto.

This trend is not confined to the U.S. In every region of the world, changing times have boosted public demand for more muscular, assertive leadership. These tough-talking populists promise to protect “us” from “them.” Depending on who’s talking, “them” can mean the corrupt elite or the grasping poor; foreigners or members of racial, ethnic or religious minorities. Or disloyal politicians, bureaucrats, bankers or judges. Or lying reporters. Out of this divide,

a new archetype of leader has emerged. We’re now in the strongman era.

Perhaps the most prominent of these can be found in Russia. After the fall of the Soviet Union fed fears of economic chaos and political impotence, Vladimir Putin answered the call for a restoration of the Russia that had been the center of an empire for three centuries. He has promised to wave away Western vultures that would pick Russia clean by making trouble in neighboring states like Ukraine. Putin, a 65-year-old man in a country with a male life expectancy of 64, embodies an image of Russian virility and swagger.

Strongmen can also be seen across Asia. In China, memories of Tiananmen traumas and the horror of the Soviet collapse have pushed the Communist Party to keep a tight hold on dissent. In power since 2012, Xi Jinping has used an anticorruption campaign to sideline potential rivals while consolidating power on a historic scale. He has announced the dawn of a “new era” for China, or a golden age of expansion that will bring his country to the global center stage. And recently, he erased presidential term limits. The era of rule by party consensus is finished, at least for now. There can be no doubt about who’s in charge.

In the Philippines, a rising tide of violent

street crime helped elect Rodrigo Duterte, a former mayor who talked more like a Mob boss than a President, on his promises to wipe out the drug trade with his own brand of justice.

Extreme political dysfunction in Thailand allowed the army to seize power in 2014 with little public resistance, and despite repeated promises to hold new elections, General Prayuth Chan-ocha remains in charge.

In Latin America, the specter of the caudillo, or military leader, has made a comeback. Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega has stifled dissent and scrapped term limits. In economically stricken Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro has detained opposition figures and violently stamped out protests. The trend may yet be infectious; a poll conducted by Vanderbilt University found that nearly 40% of Brazilians, exhausted by crime and corruption, would support a military coup in their country.

Then there's the Middle East, where some imagined that the Arab Spring might usher in democracy. In Egypt, Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, the general whose forces violently quashed protests over the overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi in July 2013, was elected President the following year. Like Putin, he won another landslide victory this spring over handpicked opponents.

In Saudi Arabia, the Arab Spring gave the royal family a look over the precipice, and a sharp drop in oil prices made clear that painful economic reforms could not be avoided. The man leading those is Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is replacing elite consensus with a new level of control. That was never more obvious than when he ordered the detention late last year of at least 17 Saudi princes and some of the kingdom's wealthiest and well-connected men.

In Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party, in power since 2003, have won a passionate following among socially conservative Turks by challenging the dominance of secular elites. Now he is manipulating Turkey's political system to remain in control. A failed military coup in 2016 emboldened Erdogan to suspend the rule of law to target his opponents. He has identified his own set of "deep state" enemies and has jailed an extraordinary number of journalists.

The character of strongman is also making a comeback in the heart of Europe. Following a migrant crisis that aroused fear and indignation in Eastern Europe, Hungary's Viktor Orbán has just won another term as Prime Minister while embracing "illiberal democracy"—a political system with free elections but scant regard for civil liberties. For Orbán, the threat comes from Muslim migrants and advocates of liberal Western democracy—like Hungarian-born George Soros—who threaten the country's "national values."

Which brings us back to Donald Trump. Voters who say lost manufacturing jobs, immigration and urban crime have created a crisis for the American working class have a personalized loyalty to Trump that extends well beyond allegiance to party. An August 2017 poll published in the *Washington Post* found that 52% of Republican voters would support postponing the 2020 election if Trump said the delay was needed to ensure that only eligible American citizens could vote.

These leaders have won followers by targeting "them," including the familiar U.S. and European sources of power and influence. But they have succeeded because they know something about "us," or the people they're speaking to. They understand the sense of threat—and they're willing to exploit it.

THE COLD WAR'S END appeared to open an era of ascendant liberal values, one in which democracy, rule of law and open markets would carry the day forever after. Yet consider the current political woes of those who still sing from this prayer book. Germany's Angela Merkel is at the lowest point in her 10 years in power, with the far-right Alternative for Germany party the main opposition to her weakened coalition. France's Emmanuel Macron faces angry protests at home by students and public-sector workers, and recent polls show waning public support. Japan's scandal-plagued Shinzo Abe is even more unpopular, while Britain's Theresa May continues to fight for her political life.

These are leaders who face choices about whether to tack to extremes to protect their vote share or stand on principle in response to populist pressure. Strongmen don't have this problem. They're usually the ones exerting that pressure, and their systems allow them to protect



their advantages by changing the rules of the political game as needed. And nothing has made it easier for them to do so than advances in technology.

A decade ago, it appeared that a revolution in information and communication technologies would empower the individual at the expense of the state. Western leaders believed social networks would create "people power," enabling political upheavals like the Arab Spring. But the world's autocrats drew a different lesson. They saw an opportunity for government to try to become the dominant player in how information is shared and how the state can use data to tighten political control.

In many countries, these efforts have proved successful. In Iran, where Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei remains firmly in charge, the government has long wanted to create a "halal" Internet, where authorities can control content and every user is identified. Reporters Without Borders described it as an "Intranet that can be completely disconnected from the World Wide Web when the authorities so



Trump, seen here during a January speech on Capitol Hill, has praised the leadership qualities of strongmen

decide.” In August 2016, Iran announced the opening of the National Information Network, while shutting down press agencies and news sites—and arresting at least 100 Internet users.

In Russia, the state keeps its citizens in the dark by banning web pages and content it deems controversial. When antigovernment protests broke out across the country in March 2017, many Russians were unaware—Yandex News, the country’s largest news aggregator, pushes stories from publishers that are more likely to meet the state’s approval. Foreign media, meanwhile, are required to register as “foreign agents.”

China’s leaders have famously safeguarded “cyber sovereignty” with the “Great Firewall,” which blocks access to tens of thousands of websites. The “Golden Shield” is an online surveillance system that uses keywords and other tools to shut down attempts to access politically sensitive content. China also now uses a “Great Cannon,” which can alter content accessed online and target websites the state considers dangerous

to China’s security with “dedicated denial of service” attacks designed to overwhelm servers.

The communications revolution has also had an impact in wholly democratic countries. On social media and on cable news, success depends on the ability of information providers to maximize engagement, or the amount of time users spend participating or viewing as well as the amount of data they share. Information providers target particular ideological, political and demographic segments of the media market, which receive different sets of content about the world. The gap between “us” and “them” is widened, and the strongmen are in position to reap the rewards.

WHAT IS TRUMP’S PLACE in all this? The U.S. President has expressed sincere admiration for the likes of Putin, Xi, al-Sisi

and Duterte. Like many such leaders, he knows well what his supporters want to hear. He has pointed at many forms of “them” and pledged to build a “big beautiful wall.”

But the U.S. political system has demonstrated its own set of strengths. Trump may complain about judges, but he can’t avoid their rulings. He thrills audiences with attacks on the press, but public fascination with his every utterance replenishes media financial reserves. His party may not control Congress after November. His approval rating is unlikely to ever reach 50%. He might be impeached.

That doesn’t mean there’s nothing to worry about. The impact this President has had on U.S. politics—including the very fact that he was able to get elected—has exposed holes in the systemic makeup of what was once the West’s beacon of democracy. Right now, some Americans think the U.S. is more urgently in need of structural political reform than China. That’s a win for the strongmen.

And the shifting, mercurial demands of voters—or “us”—have made it very hard for political leaders and parties in democratic nations to stay in place long enough to set an example or forge long-term strategies. In countries like China and Russia, leaders have years ahead of them to pursue far deeper strategic goals, such as Xi’s One Belt One Road infrastructure plan or Putin’s war of attrition on the norms and values of his Western rivals.

Perhaps the most worrying element of the strongman’s rise is the message it sends. The systems that powered the Cold War’s winners now look much less appealing than they did a generation ago. Why emulate the U.S. or European political systems, with all the checks and balances that prevent even the most determined leaders from taking on chronic problems, when one determined leader can offer a credible shortcut to greater security and national pride? As long as that rings true, the greatest threat may be the strongmen yet to come. □



Bremmer is the author of *Us vs. Them: The Failure of Globalism*, out now



Then: Lilah, 5, in her childhood bedroom in Brisbane, Calif., in 2004.
Now: Lilah in her room in 2016

Valley of Dre



ams

Silicon Valley has changed drastically in the last 20 years. The hopes of the families who live there have not

Photographs by Beth Yarnelle Edwards

FOR ITS OUTSIZE REPUTATION, SILICON VALLEY is a narrow thing. America's innovation capital mainly consists of a thin column of towns and cities on the San Francisco peninsula squeezed between the coastal mountain range to the west and the bay to the east. It has traditionally comprised the top of Santa Clara County as well as the very bottom of San Mateo County. And as it has grown in recent years, parts of the city of San Francisco have become its satellites, instead of the other way around.

Before its current name began to stick in the early 1970s, this place was known as the Valley of Heart's Delight, renowned for its bountiful fruit orchards. The circumstances that turned a pastoral eden into a technological and economic mecca have been studied and dissected the world over, and many have attempted to replicate the magic in Silicon Hills, Silicon Forest, Silicon Prairie. Would-be copycats would be right to conclude that access to basic research and startup capital, ease of mobility and more than decent weather are some of the essential elements. But for the past two decades, photographer Beth Yarnelle Edwards has been documenting the one aspect often neglected by these observers: Silicon Valley's fundamentally suburban character.

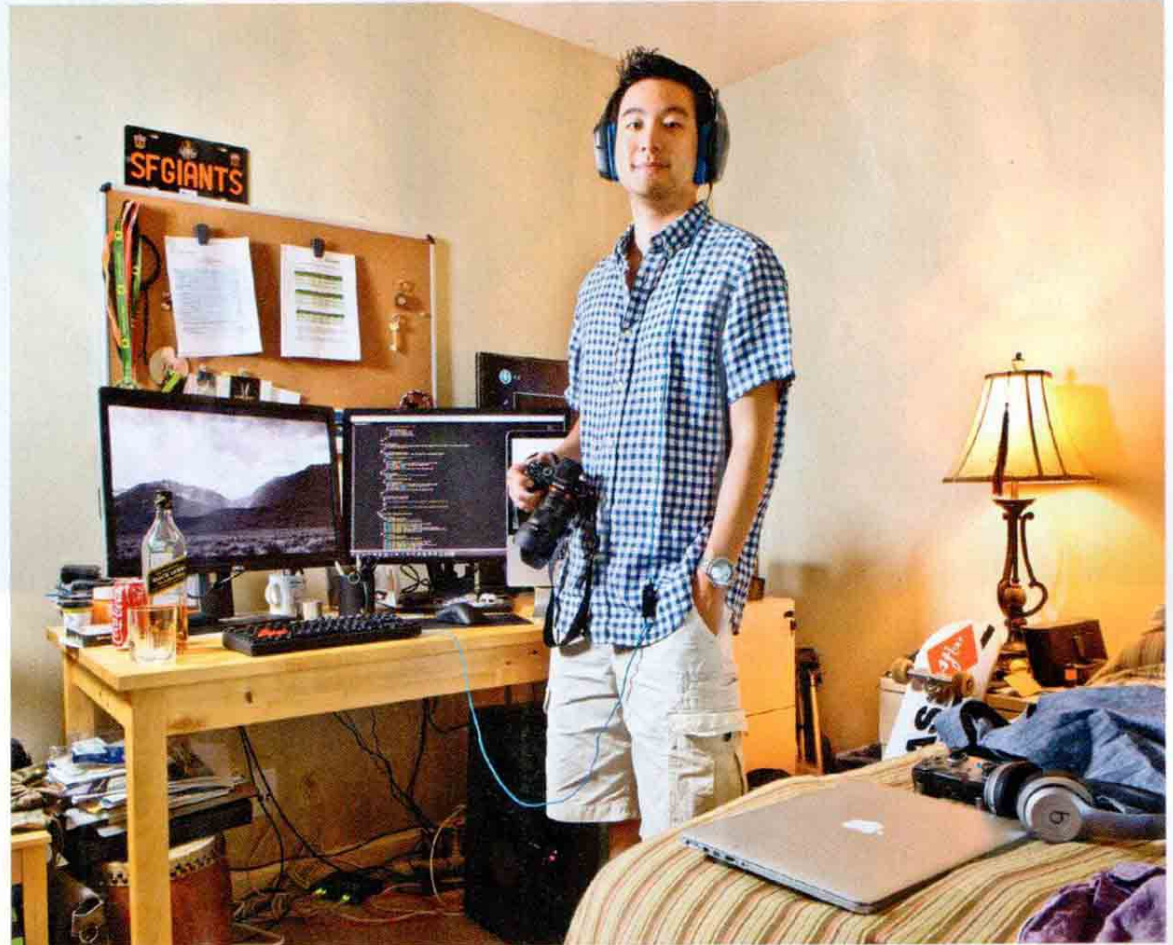
Edwards' *Suburban Dreams* project was born in 1997. "I felt isolated and trapped, but I realized that the people around me really loved being there," she recalls. She began by photographing friends and acquaintances near her home in San Carlos. The project grew as she interviewed her subjects extensively to understand how their environment shaped their hopes and dreams. "It's really important to me that the images are authentic to what is happening in the home," she says. In 2016, Edwards began revisiting her subjects to see the effects of the growth, the wealth, the congestion. But she was surprised by how little had changed in the lives of those still there. "This population is kind of blessed," she says. "This isn't how the larger population lives."

Many Silicon Valley natives and those who, like myself, have spent significant amounts of time there do not recognize much of what they see there nowadays. It's true that on the alleyways of my childhood—Vine Street in Menlo Park, Shearer Drive in Atherton—modest Eichlers and ranch homes have been bulldozed and replaced by mansions and manors. Almost everything is more crowded, more expensive, more pretentious. But a lot will never change. The arteries—Highway 101, the El Camino—are the same. So too the bones, great freestanding oaks and gentle hills wreathed in golden grass. And at the heart of it all, as Edwards' photos illustrate, the suburban dream is still alive. —MATT VELLA





Then: Erin, 11, in her childhood bedroom in Redwood City, Calif., in 1997.
Now: Erin with her three kids at her home in San Francisco in 2017




Then: Kyle, 3, in his childhood bedroom in Hillsborough, Calif.
Now: Kyle in his room in 2016



OPEN



*Then, from left: Sisters Lucia, 17; Rita, 21; and Niki, 24; in their Redwood City, Calif., home in 2000.
Now: In Niki's loft in San Francisco in 2017*

A photograph of a snowy mountain range reflected in a body of water. In the foreground, there is a large, white ice floe floating in the water. The water is a deep blue color. The sky is overcast and grey.

HELP SAVE THE FRIDGE

Spitsbergen, Norway.

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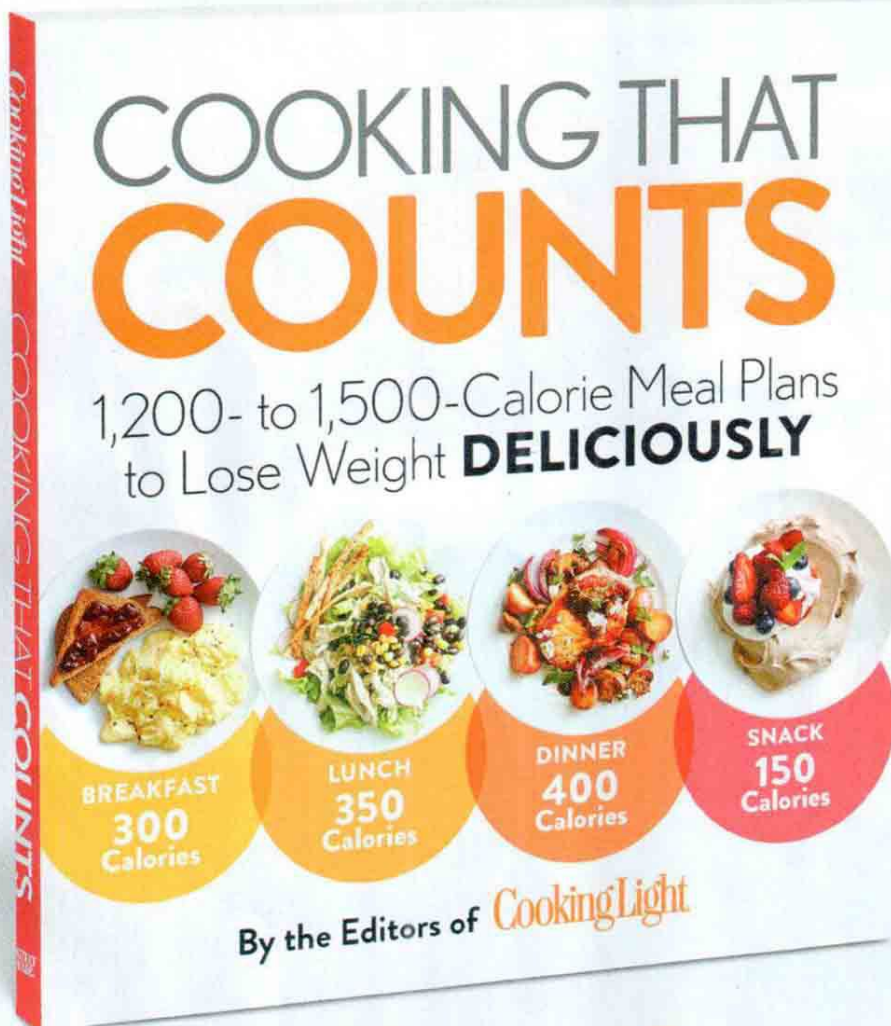
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SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW

THE CHARACTERS YOU'LL MEET THIS
POPCORN SEASON, FROM INCREDIBLE
PARENTS TO HAN SOLO'S NEMESIS

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX EBEN MEYER FOR TIME

Ocean's 8 marks the return of the great glam caper

By Stephanie Zacharek

THE BIG SELLING POINT OF OCEAN'S 8, a riff on the *Ocean's Eleven* guys-pulling-off-heists series, is its all-women cast. In the trailer, Cate Blanchett and Sandra Bullock cook up a jewel heist while striding along a New York City sidewalk, looking as if they own not just the sidewalk but the whole city. Their pockets may be empty, for now, but they've got the million-dollar look. Bullock wears a drapery trench coat that's the color of money, Blanchett a tailored cheetah-print wrapper, whose every blurry black dot whispers class. But what's most striking about this movie isn't that it stars a bunch of women—among them Sarah Paulson, Mindy Kaling and Rihanna—in the types of cool-crook roles that would normally go to men. It's how unapologetically glamorous the whole thing looks. And though we may cling to the illusion that today's movies are filled with glamour, we're actually slogging through a serious cashmere shortage, moviewise. Why can't we have more champagne and châteaux in our movies? Will *Ocean's 8* be the movie that revives the glam caper?

Fantasy is a multibillion-dollar business in Hollywood, but much of that money is poured into—and, eventually, flows out of—movies based on comic books. Meanwhile, fantasies of luxury, escape and intrigue, with stories for grownups that feature attractive individuals getting away with preposterous crimes, have become as rare as a flawless emerald.

There's no good reason for these pictures to be so scarce. Great directors have contributed to the genre.

In Alfred Hitchcock's 1955 dazzler *To Catch a Thief*, Cary Grant and Grace Kelly swerve and glide through the French Riviera in search of a jewel-snatching cat burglar. A later but no less stylish specimen is Norman Jewison's *The Thomas Crown Affair*, with Steve McQueen as a wily, thieving millionaire and Faye Dunaway as an even sharper insurance investigator. The picture's '60s-luxe vibe—including a teasingly erotic chess game between the two stars—makes it pure pleasure to watch, though John McTiernan's 1999 remake, with Pierce Brosnan and Rene Russo, is even better. In the updated version, the always-dashing Brosnan steals not money but a priceless Monet. Jewels and art always make for better visual movie totems than mere cash.

The element that truly distinguishes the glam caper from the ordinary heist movie—even great ones like *Rififi* (1955) or *The Italian Job* (from 1969, but remade, respectably, in 2003)—is the pronounced presence of women. In the 1999 *Thomas Crown*, Russo is both

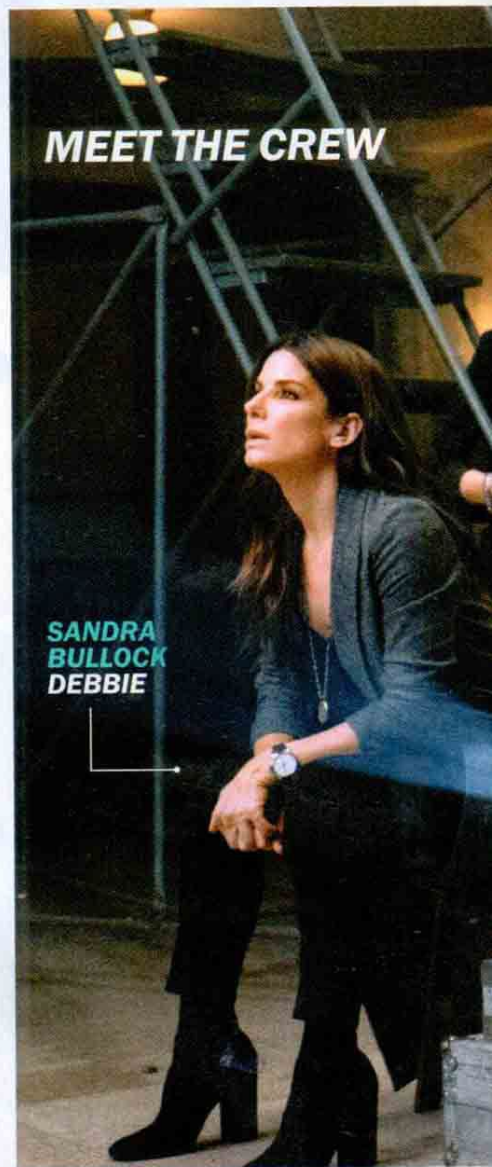
elegant and sensuous, but it's her dusky wit that really makes the performance. More recently, in 2015, Alicia Vikander brought mod magnificence to Guy Ritchie's *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, based

on the '60s TV show. The picture, which also stars Armie Hammer and Henry Cavill as Cold War-era spies from opposite sides of the Iron Curtain, ticks off nearly all the necessary glam-caper boxes, including luxurious locales and good stunt driving. But as handsome and funny as the male leads are, it's Vikander—with her voice a mingling of silk and smoke—who holds our attention.

You could argue, if you wanted to be unimaginatively reductive, that the characters played by Russo and



This time around, the target of the heist is Daphne Kluger (Anne Hathaway)





CATE
BLANCHETT
LOU

SARAH
PAULSON
TAMMY

RIHANNA
EIGHT BALL

HELENA
BONHAM
CARTER
ROSE

MINDY
KALING
AMITA

AWKWAFINA
CONSTANCE

Vikander are just eye candy, svelte hangers for beautiful clothes. But that—aside from demeaning the actors—misses the deeper ways that even seemingly light entertainments can speak to us. Flattened, rigid applications of the notion of the male gaze have done more to damage our understanding of how movies work than to further it. What about the *human gaze*? And the fact that both men and women, gay and straight, find pleasure—if not always the same kind of pleasure—in looking at women? These movies provide escape, but not necessarily the mindless kind. We're all just coming to terms with how much toxic masculinity hurts men. It's all the more reason for men to relax and let women do more of the driving. The glam caper, as a genre, offers infinite possibilities for female characters whose problem-solving capabilities are at least as good as, or better than, those of their male counterparts.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Bullock stars as Debbie Ocean, an estranged sister of Danny (George Clooney)



That's not to say clothes are unimportant. Any glamorous heroine's allure lies in great costuming. But there, too, we've been left hungry. Truly beautiful contemporary clothes have become a rarity in the movies—and it will count for something if, in *Ocean's 8*, costume designer Sarah Edwards redresses even just that single wrong. Our ideas of glamour have become distorted by our definition of what gives a garment or accessory value: we know how to read the meaning of logos and brands, but we've lost the gift of assaying the more rare value of, say, a suit that falls from the shoulder line with impeccable propriety, or of the way a suede boot can take on almost liquid form as it's

Expect Ocean's 8, which sees this band of women staging a heist at the Met Gala, to be the luxe-fantasy movie of the summer

unzipped. Russo's wardrobe in *Thomas Crown*, an assortment of supple coats and sexy yet businesslike turtlenecks, are a case in point.

Good movie clothes speak movie language, not brand language. They're like lines of dialogue written in folds and shadows; the way they move with, or against, an actor becomes part of the performance. A good glam caper needs great clothes, ensembles that inspire not "How much is it and where can I get it?" acquisitiveness but something deeper and less tangible, a kind of moody yearning. That's a tall order for a bunch of cheetah spots. But it's never too late to learn how to read their secret language. □

Everybody and their mother

By Mahita Gajanan

MAMMA MIA!, BASED ON THE ABBA-FUELED hit musical, is about a young woman's search for her father. In the sequel *Here We Go Again* (July 20), flashbacks reveal how the young woman's mother met her suitors in the 1970s. Here's a handy family tree to help viewers keep track of generations past and present.

THE GRANDMOTHER

Donna's glamorous mother drops in for a surprise visit—via helicopter, of course.



RUBY SHERIDAN
Cher

THE MOTHER

A look back at her origins will show how the singer, mother and hotel owner's life came together.



PAST

Lily James

PRESENT

DONNA SHERIDAN
Meryl Streep

THE FATHERS

Each man had a fling with Donna in the 1970s. *Mamma Mia!* ended with Donna marrying Sam and Sophie happy to have three father figures—even if she still doesn't know who her dad is. Now we'll see how the romances got started.

PAST PRESENT



BILL

Josh Dylan Stellan Skarsgard



HARRY

Hugh Skinner Colin Firth



SAM

Jeremy Irvine Pierce Brosnan

THE FRIENDS

From singing in a girl group to attending surprise weddings, Donna's closest friends have always been along for the ride.

PAST PRESENT



ROSIE

Alexa Davies Julie Walters



TANYA

Jessica Keenan Wynn Christine Baranski

THE DAUGHTER

Newly pregnant, she explores her mother's past to better understand how she raised a child on her own.



SOPHIE SHERIDAN
Amanda Seyfried

THE FIANCÉ

He and Sophie aren't married yet. But Sky may face fatherhood a little sooner than he expected.



SKY
Dominic Cooper

Shining a light on real-life icons



RBG (MAY 4) Documentarians Betsy West and Julie Cohen celebrate the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whose groundbreaking work broke down gender barriers. Footage includes private moments with family and her Internet-famous workout routine.



POPE FRANCIS: A MAN OF HIS WORD (MAY 18) The Holy Father isn't known for granting interviews, but in this doc, the leader of the Catholic Church talks with unusual candor to renowned German filmmaker Wim Wenders about everything from social justice and inequality to death.



WHITNEY (JULY 6) Legendary singer and actor Whitney Houston died tragically at 48 years old in 2012. In *Whitney*, Academy Award-winning director Kevin Macdonald takes an authorized look at her life and career, including unreleased recordings and live performances.



WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? (JUNE 8) This cinematic eulogy to beloved PBS personality Fred Rogers offers a nostalgic look back at the man behind the critically acclaimed and long-running children's television show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

—Megan McCluskey



After years of being a stay-at-home mom, Elastigirl (Hunter) gets back on the motorbike

Pixar flips the script on traditional parenting roles

By Eliana Dockterman

IT'S BEEN 14 YEARS SINCE superheroes Mr. Incredible (Craig T. Nelson), Elastigirl (Holly Hunter) and their children battled villains in Pixar's *The Incredibles*. Dozens of superheroes—including no fewer than three Batmen—have graced the big screen in the intervening years. But none have been as accessible as the family in *The Incredibles*, a movie about super people dealing with un-super problems. “If *Incredibles 2* was a cash grab, we would have made it 13 years ago,” says Hunter. “But the creator, Brad Bird, really wanted to find a relatable story.”

That story, out June 15, picks up where the first movie left off: the family members prepare to fight a new brute, the Underminer, even though using their superpowers remains illegal.

Along the way, *Incredibles 2* introduces new conversations around parenting and gender roles. Since 2004, women have more openly debated how to balance career ambitions and family responsibilities. And parental-leave policies have gradually evolved to offer fathers more time at home with their children, though stigmas persist.

Bird tackles these issues by flipping the roles of Mr. Incredible and Elastigirl. A media mogul offers Elastigirl an opportunity to fight crime as the face of a PR campaign aimed at legalizing superpowers, and she becomes the family breadwinner. “I think *Time’s Up* has triggered another iteration of the feminist movement, and this movie reflects that,” says Hunter. “In the first one, I came to superheroism really



Mr. Incredible (Nelson) now battles dirty diapers and adolescent hormones

reluctantly and only because my husband was in danger. In this movie, my ambition is fully unfurled. I’m unapologetic and competitive. I approach the job with abandon and glee.”

Meanwhile, Mr. Incredible takes care of the kids. “He finds out parenthood is hard,” says Nelson. “He wants to empower and support his wife. But he feels like the opportunity she has should be his.” It’s a constant calibration between encouragement and envy, not unlike what many parents experience in the real world. Raising kids, it turns out, is even harder than defeating villains. □

This summer’s superheroic parents



TULLY (MAY 4) Charlize Theron is eminently relatable as the mother of a newborn—her third—trying to figure out how she lost sight of her dreams amid the mess of breast pumps, nipple cream and frozen pizzas.



BREAKING IN (MAY 11) Gabrielle Union shows that a mother’s love knows no bounds—and sometimes extends to some pretty impressive martial arts moves—when her kids’ lives are threatened by shady criminals.



A KID LIKE JAKE (JUNE 1) Claire Danes and Jim Parsons balance angst and compassion as Brooklynites struggling to help their gender-nonconforming child find a place in the world while still just being a kid.



HEARTS BEAT LOUD (JUNE 8) Nick Offerman plays a wistful dad who starts a band with his talented but reluctant daughter (Kiersey Clemons) for last-minute bonding before she heads off to college.

—Eliza Berman



Two movies confront a rapidly changing Oakland

By Cady Lang

OAKLAND, CALIF., THE BAY AREA CITY affectionately known as the Town, has a reputation as the grittier, more radical counterpart of San Francisco. Shaped by segregation and urban renewal, it became a mecca for artists and activists—most notably the Black Panther Party, which was founded there in 1966. This rich political history has long inspired the city's equally rich cultural legacy, which includes Jack London's writings on socialism and the socially conscious rhymes of Tupac Shakur.

It's no surprise, then, that Oakland acts as both muse and setting for two new movies—*Sorry to Bother You* (July 6) and *Blindspotting* (July 20)—that embrace its history of disrupting the status quo by turning a keen eye to race and class in the rapidly gentrifying city.

Sorry to Bother You, a satirical sucker punch of a debut written and directed by Oakland activist and musician Boots Riley, is a cautionary tall tale about capitalism that's part magical realism, part revolutionary manifesto and part hallucinatory fever dream. Lakeith Stanfield stars as Cassius Green, a



Stanfield and Tessa Thompson fight the power in *Sorry to Bother You*

financially struggling black telemarketer who discovers that using his “white voice” with customers can make him rich and save his uncle's house from foreclosure. But code-switching comes at a cost that undermines his humanity.

Carlos López Estrada's *Blindspotting*, written by and starring *Hamilton*'s Daveed Diggs and spoken-word poet Rafael Casal, both Bay Area natives, tackles similar themes. Colin (Diggs), a cautious black man on parole, and Miles (Casal), his reckless, Ebonics-spouting white friend, are best pals who are forced to confront the ways in which race and privilege have contoured their lifelong bond.

A lifelong bond between Casal, left, and Diggs, center, is tested in *Blindspotting*

Both films feel like love letters to the Oakland that existed before the Silicon Valley tech boom. *Blindspotting* opens to the funky strains of local hip-hop legend Mac Dre and laments the appearance of green juice at the corner store as well as the influx of hipsters. *Sorry* pays homage to the city's history of protest with a militant workers' strike against Armie Hammer's coke-snorting, sarong-wearing New Age tech bro of a CEO.

But while hipsters and tech bros coax some laughs, both films make it clear that there's something much more sobering about the changes that are happening in the city. Homeless encampments spring up blocks from sleek new skyscrapers. Cassius plays whistle-blower on a corrupt corporation, only to be turned into a viral meme by a public that knows the truth and doesn't care. Colin experiences a heart-pounding incident of racial profiling by police, and his dread is heightened after witnessing police shoot and kill an unarmed black man, not unlike Oscar Grant, who was fatally shot by police there in 2009. Neither film is interested in tidy endings or false hopes, but for a dose of reality served with flair, it's worth taking a trip—or two—to the Town. □

The girls next door play the spy game

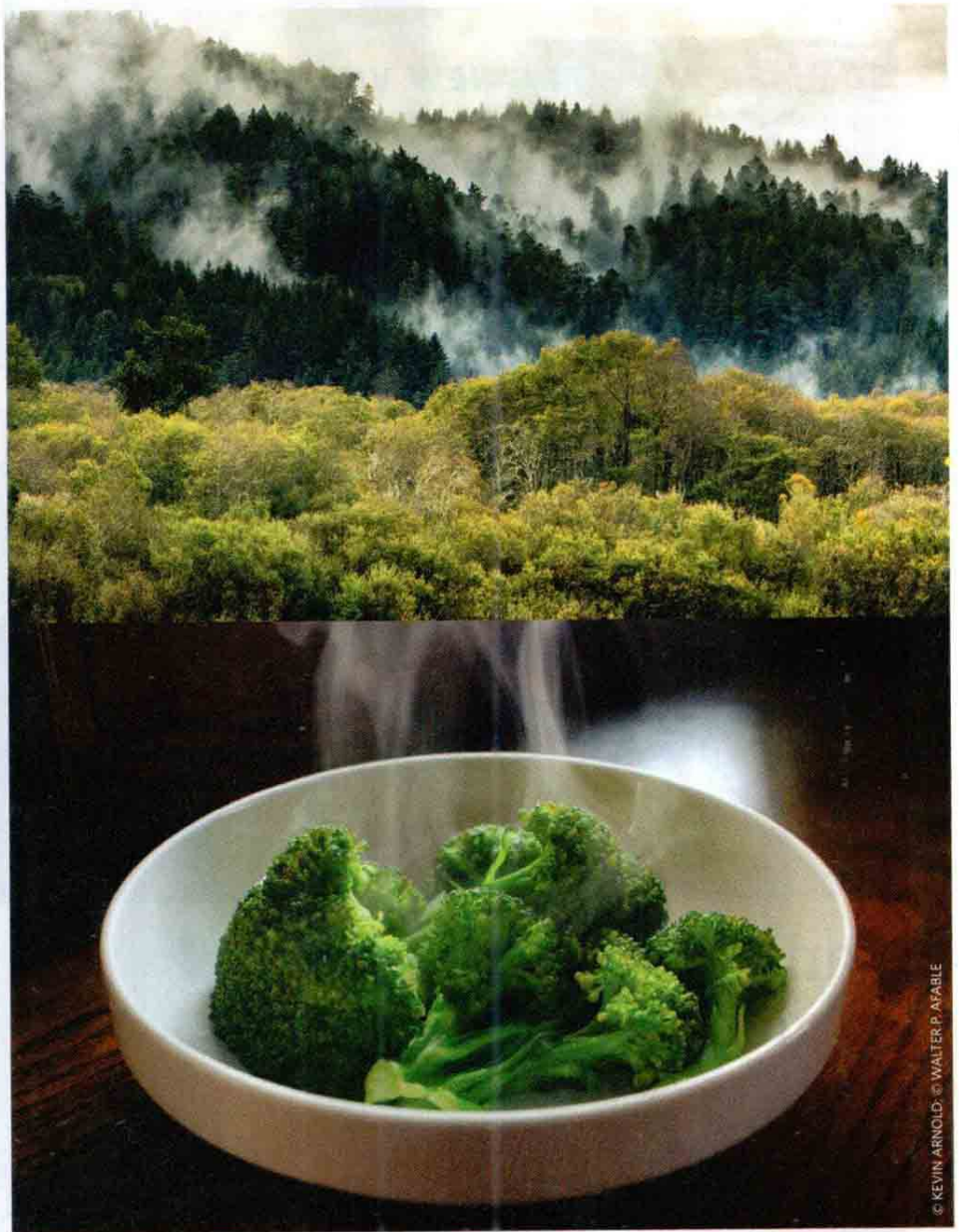
Sometimes heroes wear capes.

Sometimes they wear Trader Joe's shirts. In *The Spy Who Dumped Me*, Audrey (Mila Kunis), woeful after getting dumped by her boyfriend via text message, is momentarily buoyed when a handsome customer flirts with her in the store parking lot. When he shoves her into a van, she learns he's not a potential rebound but a British agent hunting for information on her now-missing ex (Justin Theroux)—who, to her surprise, turns out to be in the CIA. Soon, Audrey and her best friend Morgan (Kate McKinnon) are swept up into a treacherous spy game that sends them fumbling across Europe—at first running for their lives, but quickly getting the hang of the whole international spy thing.

On its surface, *The Spy's* appeal lies in its car chases and buddy-comedy humor: think *Mission: Impossible* meets *Bridesmaids*. But its pulsing heartbeat is the ride-or-die friendship beneath the plot. Writer-director Susanna Fogel is well versed in stories of female friendship—her 2014 comedy *Life Partners* explored a codependent relationship between two women—and *The Spy* prioritizes Audrey and Morgan's tie above all else, including romance. Like so many BFFs, these two know each other's quirks and insecurities and weirdest secrets. They're so close, they can communicate complicated plans with a single glance. Even the most sophisticated villains are no match for that kind of bond.

—Lucy Feldman

McKinnon,
left, and
Kunis go
undercover



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Han Solo gets a new nemesis in Paul Bettany

By Eliana Dockterman

Bettany faces off against a young Han Solo in the latest Star Wars saga

A GOOD SUMMER MOVIE MAY BE remembered for its hero, but great summer movies are defined by their villains. And most can't quite measure up to the bad guys from the *Star Wars* galaxy, including Darth Vader, Jabba the Hutt and Boba Fett. Paul Bettany talked to TIME about joining that pantheon of evildoers in *Solo*, a prequel out May 25. Set before Han Solo meets Luke or Leia, the movie chronicles Han's descent into the smuggling world and his encounters with shady characters, including Bettany's scarred gangster Dryden Vos.

Who is Dryden Vos? He's a gangster, a godfather figure. He's got a long reach, and he demands his tribute before any sort of business deal goes forward. And, of course, Han gets mixed up with him.

Han Solo has always operated in a moral gray area. Is it fair to say that Dryden and the other *Solo* characters aren't so concerned with the dark side and the light? It feels very different tonally from the other *Star Wars* movies. This is definitely a world where Han shoots first. And that's as it should be.

It's absolutely what attracted me to Han when I was a little boy. Thinking, Oh my God, he's so bad. He's just out for himself. But then he can't help but show up at the Death Star when you need him. He's worked out that the galaxy is cruel and you need to be cruel to get by, but he can't quite do it because he has a heart.

Do you have a favorite *Star Wars* villain? I have to say Darth Vader. It's a beautifully complex character. Look, I could lie and say I became an actor because of Fellini films. But the truth is, in 1977, I saw *Star Wars* and the whole world changed. The first day on the set of *Solo*, I was walking down a set of



Bettany also plays the android superhero Vision in Avengers: Infinity War

stairs on a Star Cruiser and there was an R2-D2 carrying a champagne glass. I felt like a kid in a toy shop.

What makes a good villain? A good villain has to have a clear philosophy about how the universe operates. They can't just be doing bad things because they're evil. They have to be thinking, Everyone else is getting theirs, so why can't I get mine?

You joined *Solo* midway through production after Ron Howard took over the film. (Disney parted ways with directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller over a difference in "creative visions.") Were you worried about the production? It all happened very quickly. I got the call from Ron Howard, and I was on the set two weeks later. I was worried about it going in, but all my fears went away the moment I arrived. I got off the plane, and I was in the makeup chair 20 minutes after that. Ron was like a laser. It was virtuosic what he did in a very short amount of time and in very trying circumstances. It was lovely seeing an old friend be so brilliant. □