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Protesters
demonstrate
in front of the
Supreme Court
on July 9 after
President Trump's
nomination of
Brett Kavanaugh
to replace retiring
Justice Anthony
Kennedy
Photograph by
Gabriella Demczuk

for TIME

ON THE COVER: Illustration by Sean Freeman for TIME

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Conversation

TRUMP VS. MUELLER

RE "THE WAR ON MUELLER" [June 18]: What exactly is President Trump so worried about? As a result of his continued attacks on special counsel Robert Mueller, more people are taking an interest in the investigation and questioning its findings. Surely this is a good thing since people are looking to hold accountable their government officials—as they quite rightly should, especially if this investigation has cost \$17 million in its first year.

Ethan Parmar, HERTFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

AS AN OUTSIDER LOOKING in on the current state of American politics, I am convinced that the entire U.S. system of government is undergoing serious threats from both the outside and within. If, as seems likely, outside agencies attempted to influence the outcome of the presidential election, that represents an existential threat to the democratic process. Britain and other constitutional monarchies have lucked into a system that gives all power to a figurehead who does not, or cannot, use those powers without advice from the government that rules in their name. The U.S. set up a system that gives real power to the head of state. The outcome of the current struggle

will prove if the U.S. system of checks and balances actually works when put to the ultimate test.

> Geoff Johnston, BARGO, AUSTRALIA

IF YOUR "VIEWPOINT" WAS supposed to give the illusion of a point/counterpoint piece, it failed badly. On one side the headline is "Trump Is Wrong: The Mueller Probe Is Constitutional." And on the other, "Yet Mueller Won't Indict a Sitting President." It's like, "Should we shoot him or hang him?" Couldn't you have come up with one column to posit why Trump would be wrong to end the Mueller probe and another to say why he'd be right to? That way it would at least give the appearance that you are publishing a balanced magazine.

> Rob Mauritz, URBANDALE, IOWA

MEN IN CONTROL

RE "THIS MAN WANTS TO BE on Birth Control" [June 18]: I found it amusing that your article on male contraception was so focused on the "injustice" of women bearing the "burden of pregnancy prevention." The young men interviewed seemed to be preoccupied with the "misogyny and crap that women face" as a result of maintaining primary responsibility for birth control. Trying to frame this



as an issue of social justice would have been fine if the article instead focused on the fact that men have traditionally had very limited control over their fertility and that male contraception would finally rectify this. Highlighting the socially progressive views of a few idealistic young men ignores the fact that the vast majority of men would pursue contraception simply because they desire control over if and when they must bear the responsibility of fatherhood-the same benefit enjoyed by women for decades. Many past generations of men would have welcomed the opportunity to delay or forgo fatherhood.

> Christopher Scinta, BUFFALO, N.Y.

THE NEXT OCCASION

RE "THE SUPREME COURT IS No Cakewalk" [June 18]: The Supreme Court sided with the baker who refused to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple, for religious reasons. What, may I ask, would this court decide if this baker or any other, for the same reason, refused to bake a birthday cake for the child of an unmarried mother?

Magda E. Winkens, DRINAGH, IRELAND

YOUR ARTICLE SAYS THAT some LGBT-rights advocates believe that the Supreme Court's decision "will embolden more religious business owners to turn away LGBT people." Choosing to label bigoted business owners who discriminate as "religious" conflates religiousness with intolerance and suggests that those who are open-minded must not be religious. This libels everyone with a soul.

Vincent Vinikas, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

TALK TO US

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'Germany, as far as I'm concerned, is captive to Russia.'

DONALD TRUMP,

President of the United States, at a NATO meeting in Brussels where he told NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg that Europe's reliance on Russian natural gas means it is "inappropriate" for the U.S. to help Germany defend itself against the source of that fuel; German Chancellor Angela Merkel disputed the assertion

\$70,000

Approximate difference between annual pay for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's top flutist and that of its top oboist; the flutist, Elizabeth Rowe, is suing for gender pay discrimination

'The biggest trade war in economic history so far.'

OF COMMERCE,

in a statement characterizing the effect of the \$34 billion in U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods that took effect on July 6



\$3.5 million

Amount of money that a federal judge ordered the U.S. Postal Service to pay the creator of the Las Vegas replica of the Statue of Liberty after a stamp was issued that accidentally showed the copy instead of the real statue

'WE HAVE CHANGED WHAT IT MEANS TO "FIGHT LIKE A GIRL""

RONDA ROUSEY.

former UFC women's bantamweight champion, at her induction ceremony for the UFC Hall of Fame, of which she is the first female member

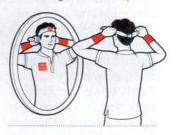
'This is not the America we all believe in.'

RICARDO ROSSELLÓ.

governor of Puerto Rico, tweeting in response to a viral video that showed a woman being harassed in an Illinois park for wearing a shirt modeled on the U.S. territory's flag

\$300 million

Estimated value of the 10-year endorsement deal that tennis star Roger Federer has signed with Uniqlo



YOU
WANT
TO
SHARE
THE
CAKE,
YOU'VE
GOT TO
HAVE A
CAKE.'

EMMANUEL MACRON,

President of France, defending his economic policies in a speech to Parliament

Hot dogs

Costco caught flak for taking Polish hot dogs off menu



Burgers

Online mentions of IHOP jumped after it briefly changed its name to IHOb to promote burgers

ONLY SOME Milka Pablo was reunited with her daughter Darly, 3, but thousands of migrant families remain separated

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER AFTER A LONG, HOSTILE STALEMATE THE BISTRO OWNERS OF PARIS TURN TO THE U.N. TO SAFEGUARD SIDEWALK CAFÉS

INSIDE

PAMELA ADLON REMEMBERS THE KINDNESS OF PIONEERING ACTOR TAB HUNTER

TheView

SOCIETY

WHAT MOTHER DOESN'T KNOW

By Susanna Schrobsdorff

There may be nobody as vulnerable to manipulation as a mother worried about her child's health. The question of whether we're doing right by our kids cuts straight to the maternal heart. The problem is that in this age of marketing vs. activism, we're overwhelmed and paralyzed by the debates about what's best.

INSIDE

HOW TO WIN EVERY ARGUMENT— AND EVEN CHANGE YOUR OWN MIND WHY THE BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS ARE GROWING GRIMMER FOR BRITAIN

WHEN STRAWS WERE CONSIDERED A BENEFIT TO SOCIETY



World

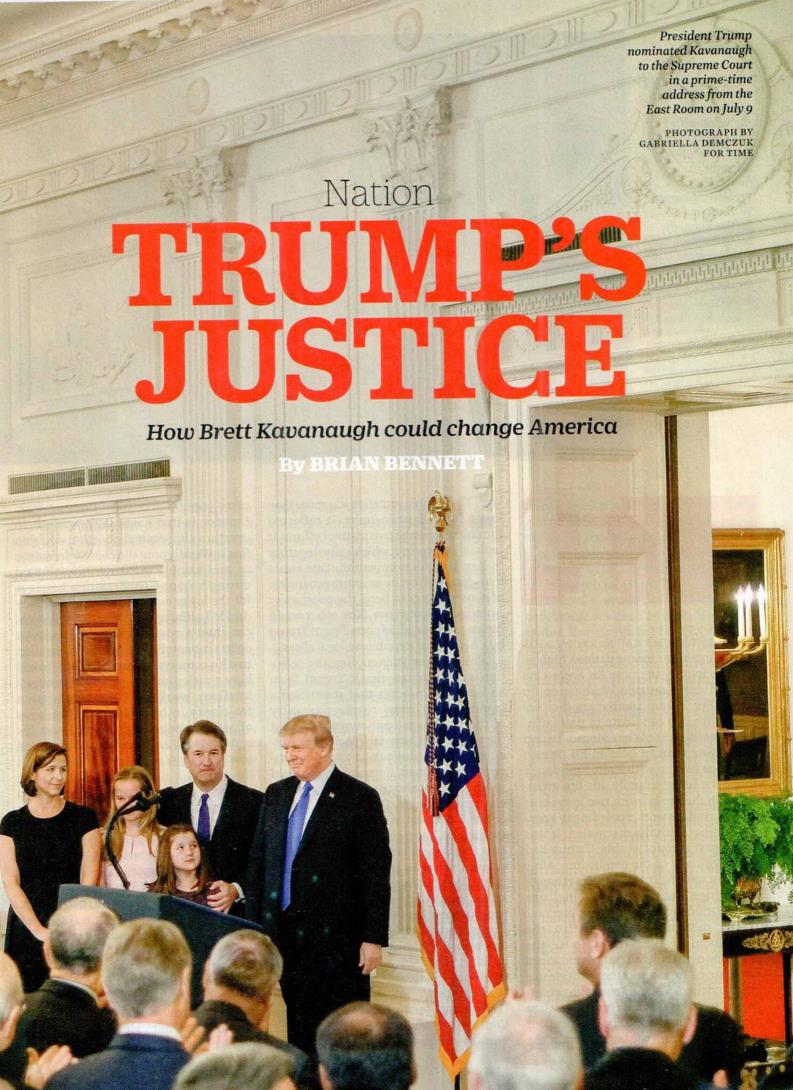
THE GREAT ESCAPE

Inside the dramatic rescue of a Thai soccer team By Feliz Solomon/Mae Sai, Thailand

ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 23, Peerapat Sompiengjai's entire family waited for him to come home from soccer practice. Aunts and uncles gathered at the compound in Vieng Hom, a rural village where he and his best friends Tle, Nick and Note lived and played for the local Wild Boars soccer team. It was his 16th birthday, and a cake was in the refrigerator. As night fell with no word, his parents started making phone calls.

"For the first few hours, I thought he was fine, I wasn't too concerned," Sriward Sompiengjai, his grandfather, told TIME. But when Peerapat, who goes by the nickname Night, didn't come back by morning, the family knew something was very wrong. Word spread that the boys and their coach had gone to a local cave system after practice, and Night's parents rushed there to try to find their son. Outside, 13 bicycles were propped up by the entrance. A handful of other parents milled around nervously. "When we saw the other parents there," Sriward said, "that's when we really began to worry."

The saga of the Wild Boars, the 12 kids and their coach who found themselves trapped underground as monsoon rains flooded chambers of the cave they were in gripped the world until the last of the boys was rescued on July 10. After ghostly video footage of them emerged from the





A LUXURIANT LITERARY ACHIEVEMENT FROM OTTESSA MOSHFEGH CHINESE-AMERICAN AUTHOR LUCY TAN'S DEBUT NOVEL, WHAT WE WERE PROMISED

A CRAIGSLIST AD LEADS TO A WHITE HOUSE JOB, AND A MEMOIR, FOR A STENOGRAPHER