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Subject: The New York Times Magazine: CNN Had a Problem. Trump Solved It.

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 The New York Times

 The New York Times

Friday, April 7, 2017

[NYTimes.com »](#)

When CNN debuted in 1980, its original mission was to “make the news the star,” but by the late ’90s, this strategy was not enough to guarantee an audience now that Fox News, with its decidedly nonneutral take, was an option. CNN needed an identity. In this week’s [cover story](#), Jonathan Mahler tells the story of how President Trump solved that problem for the network, largely because of a strange symbiosis between him and CNN’s president, Jeff Zucker, that dates back to their work together on reality TV. Last spring the two men ran into each other in a men’s room. “You think any of this would have happened without “The Apprentice?”” Trump asked.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Leslie Jamison writes about living in the shadow of a fairy tale when she became a [stepmother](#). Robert F. Worth reports on the coming French election and the debate over [extremism](#). And Carina Chocano writes about our uneasiness when others show their [thirst](#) — even politicians. Also, we say farewell to Rosie Schaap’s Drink column with a collection of some of our [favorites](#). Cheers!

Happy reading,

Jake Silverstein

Editor in Chief

 Jeff Zucker.

Jeff Zucker. Philip Montgomery for The New York Times

FEATURE

CNN Had a Problem. Donald Trump Solved It.

By JONATHAN MAHLER

Inside the strange symbiosis between Jeff Zucker and the president he helped create.



 Gilles Kepel en route to a meeting at Villepinte prison, outside Paris, in December.

Illustration by Ben Giles

Jérôme Sessini/Magnum, for The New York Times

FEATURE

In the Shadow of a Fairy Tale

By LESLIE JAMISON

On becoming a stepmother.

FEATURE

The Professor and the Jihadi

By ROBERT F. WORTH

When a terrorist made a death threat against Gilles Kepel, France's most famous scholar of Islam, it deepened his embroilment in a national debate over Muslim assimilation and extremism.

DRINK

The Ghost at the Bar

By ROSIE SCHAAP

Like other communities, bars honor and remember those who say goodbye.



NOTEBOOK

Drinking Through the Years: The Best of Our Drink Column

By THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

A toast to Rosie Schaap.



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Illustration by Javier Jaén

FIRST WORDS

It's Easy to Be Called 'Thirsty' on Social Media. What About on Capitol Hill?

By CARINA CHOCANO

After years of mocking one another's neediness and embarrassing overeagerness, we've started to see it in our politicians too.

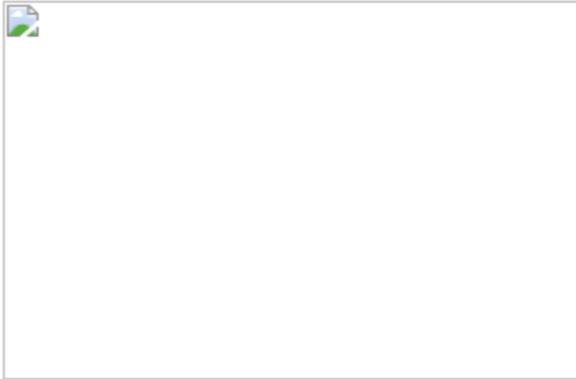
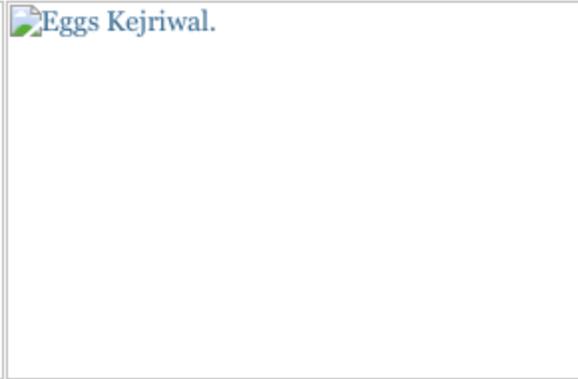


Illustration by Adam Ferriss

Eggs Kejriwal.



Gentl and Hyers for The New York Times

ON TECHNOLOGY

Why Can't Silicon Valley Fix Online Harassment?

By JENNA WORTHAM

The answer might stretch back to the founding principles of the web.

EAT

Egg, Cheese and Toast, Mumbai Style

By TEJAL RAO

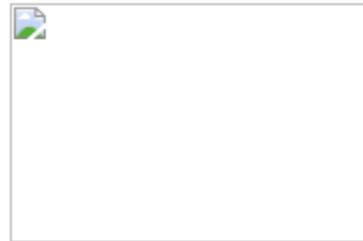
The everyday breakfast trinity blessed with the raw heat of green chiles.

THE ETHICIST

Is It O.K. That Our Friends Are Constantly Suing People?

By KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

The magazine's Ethicist columnist on what's wrong with being litigious, an older relative's love affair and revealing a buried secret.



LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

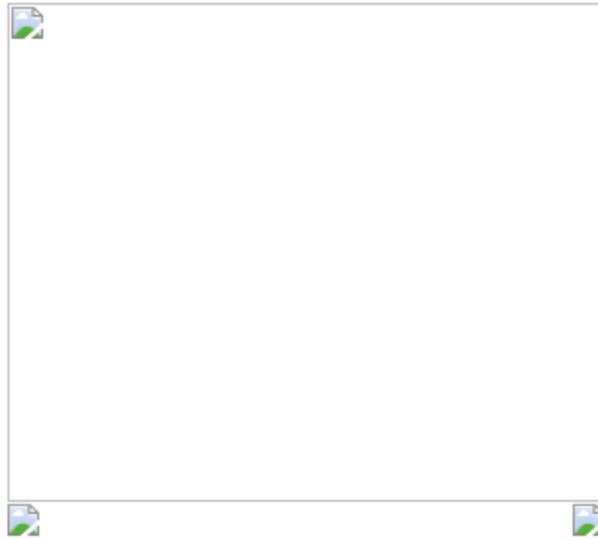
Letter of Recommendation: Berliner Fernsehturm

By LAUREN OYLER

An awkward, soothing television tower, for Germans and expatriates alike.



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