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Saturday, September 23, 2017

[NYTimes.com/Insider](https://www.nytimes.com/insider) »

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Hello Insiders,

It often pays just to *listen*.

Kenneth P. Vogel, a New York Times reporter, overheard a tantalizing conversation while out for lunch at a steakhouse in Washington, leading to an accidental — and surprising — scoop. [Read more.](#)

And Ron Lieber, The Times's "Your Money" columnist, seems to be listening better than just about anyone to the complaints of those affected by the Equifax breach. Here's an [inside look at his coverage.](#)

Until next week,

**Stephen Hiltner**

Times Insider

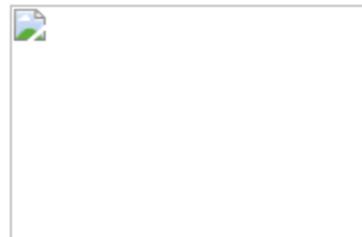
P.S. If you'd like to receive invitations to Times Insider events and are *not* currently on our events email list, you can opt in [here.](#)

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## 'Isn't That the Trump Lawyer?': A Reporter's Accidental Scoop

By KENNETH P. VOGEL

Kenneth P. Vogel overheard a conversation at a Washington steakhouse that led to a story on the White House legal team's internal discord over the Russia investigations.



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## A Consumer Advocate Battles Equifax and a Storm

By RON LIEBER

“I managed to respond to the first several hundred emails, but a backlog built up as the hurricane came and went and I transported my father back home.”

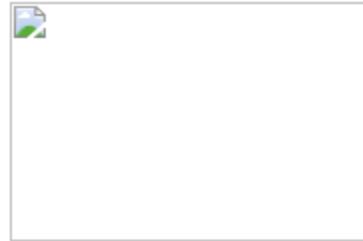


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## An Obituary Written From Beyond the Grave? Not Quite.

By STEPHEN HILTNER

Because The Times prepares some obituaries for notable people in advance, in rare instances an obituary will appear by a writer who is already deceased.

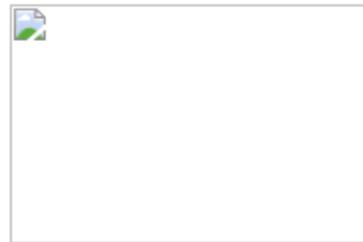


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## Walking the Line Between Reporting a Rohingya Refugee's Story and Changing It

By HANNAH BEECH

“You cannot help everyone, so you tell yourself that documenting their suffering is a form of aid.”

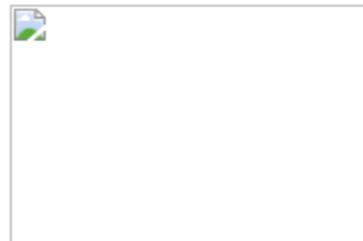


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## Why The Times Covers Its Own Industry

By SYDNEY EMBER

“Rolling Stone influenced a generation. That it can no longer survive on its own suggests that something about our culture has been lost.”



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## Why Are Drug Prices So High? We're Curious, Too

By KATIE THOMAS AND CHARLES ORNSTEIN

The New York Times and ProPublica have teamed up to investigate who is to blame for skyrocketing drug prices — and have turned up some surprising answers.

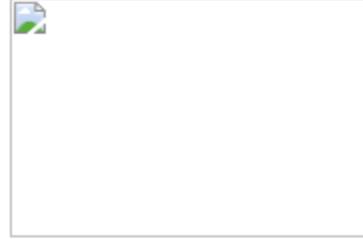


**LOOKING BACK**

## 1851 | Born Into a Racial Turmoil That Has Never Ended

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

In issue No. 1, The Times described the recent killing of a slaveholder in an attack that has been called the first battle of the Civil War.



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## What We're Reading

Compiled by ANDREA KANNAPELL

Great reads around the web, from John Schwartz, Lynda Richardson, and more.



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## Things to Do

New York City

**Podcast Club, IRL: “See Something Say Something”**

Tuesday, Sept. 26

7 p.m.

What’s up with ghee? For this episode of Podcast Club, IRL, we’ll tune into BuzzFeed’s “See Something Say Something” to discuss food fads and the reappropriation of global cuisines — and to hear the episode’s creators discuss how it was made.

Click [here](#) to read more and get tickets.

Insiders receive \$5 discount; price includes one drink.

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Washington, D.C.

**From Anchor Suits to Bare-ing Arms: The Evolution of Fashion**

Thursday, Oct. 19

7:30 p.m.

Discuss the etymology of “Washington fashion” — from first ladies to anchorwomen, from the Hillary pantsuit to the contemporary fashion world — at this fashion panel moderated by the New York Times Pulitzer Prize-winning (and fashion-obsessed) journalist Helene Cooper.

Click [here](#) to read more; redeem your discount with the code STYLE.

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New York City

**Devouring the City**

Wednesday, Sept. 27

7 p.m.

Sarah Maslin Nir, a Times reporter and the host of “Only in New York,” brings together Eddie Huang, a writer and chef provocateur, and Sam Sifton, The New York Times’s food editor and founding editor of NYT Cooking, for a conversation about the ever-evolving role of food and restaurants in New York City’s psyche.

Reception to follow.

Click [here](#) to read more and for a chance to win tickets.

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Washington, D.C.

**TimesTalks: The Press and Trump’s Washington**

Thursday, Oct. 12

6:30 p.m.

Join The New York Times in Washington for a discussion of today's polarizing political climate and the unique challenges of covering an administration that at times has put the media itself in its crosshairs. Featuring Dean Baquet, The New York Times's executive editor; Peter Baker and Maggie Haberman, two White House correspondents; and Jim Rutenberg, a media columnist.

Click [here](#) to read more and get tickets.

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Toronto

**Special Offer: International Festival of Authors**

Oct. 21 and Oct. 28

A limited number of tickets have been made available for Times Insiders to attend events taking place during the IFOA. Use the promo code IFOA2017 for 50% off the following events:

Harbourfront Centre

**Mystery: Quest for the Truth**

Saturday, Oct. 21

6 p.m.

Detective Louise Rick meets Inspector Alan Banks. Dan Wakin, a Times editor, interviews crime writers Sara Blaedel and Peter Robinson. Hosted by James Grainger.

Click [here](#) to read more and get tickets.

Harbourfront Centre

**In Conversation: Wayne Johnston and Linda Spalding**

Saturday, Oct. 28

11 a.m.

Ian Austen, a Times reporter, interviews Wayne Johnston and Linda Spalding about their literary careers. Hosted by David Bradford.

Click [here](#) to read more and get tickets.

Harbourfront Centre

**In Conversation with Carol Off**

Saturday, Oct. 28

3 p.m.

CBC's Carol Off has been covering human-interest stories worldwide for decades. Her new book, "All We Leave Behind," tells the story of an Afghan man who exposes the warlords working arm in arm with the American and NATO troops. Off will share Asad Aryubwal's story with you in an interview with Catherine Porter.

Click [here](#) to read more and get tickets.

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