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Subject: The New York Times Magazine: Will Obamacare Really Go Under the Knife?

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 The New York Times

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Friday, February 17, 2017

NYTimes.com »

For decades, universal health care was the great dream of the Democratic Party, the last big piece of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society left to be put into place. From the moment Barack Obama and congressional Democrats accomplished that in 2010, with the passage of the Affordable Care Act — known popularly as Obamacare — Republicans and conservative activists have pursued an equally single-minded dream: the total repeal of Obama's signature accomplishment. So why — nearly a month into Donald Trump's presidency, and with Republican majorities in both the Senate and the House — does this ambition still seem so far from coming to pass? The answer, Robert Draper suggests in his [cover story](#) in this week's issue, may have something to do with the way this battle has been fought for nearly seven years now: "Have Republicans become trapped by their pledge to do away with Obamacare?"

Elsewhere in the magazine, Rachel Cusk considers what it means to be polite in [the age of rudeness](#). Elizabeth Royte follows [New York's compost king](#), the Porsche-driving Long Island mogul who plans to turn much of the city's food scraps into clean energy. And Jonah Weiner follows David Longstreth as he tries to reinvent [the Dirty Projectors](#), his much-acclaimed indie-rock band, as a solo project.

Happy reading,

Jake Silverstein

Editor in Chief



Photo illustration by Craig Cutler for The New York Times

FEATURE

Will Obamacare Really Go Under the Knife?

By ROBERT DRAPER

Republicans spent almost seven years waging a battle to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Finally, they are set up for victory — or a new kind of disappointment.

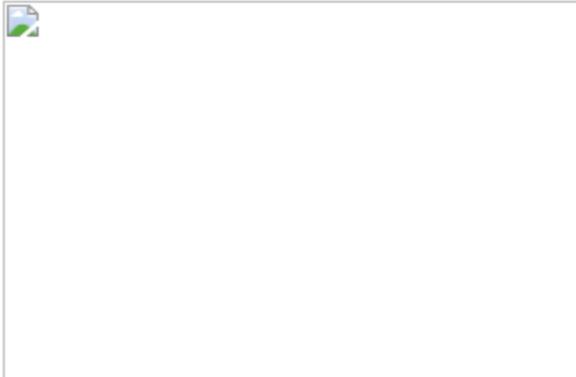
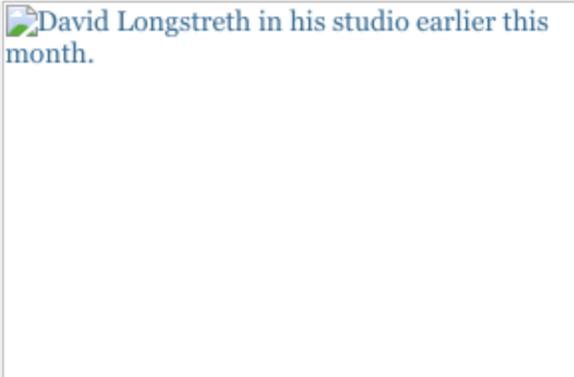


Photo illustration by Cristiana Couceiro



David Longstreth in his studio earlier this month.



Graeme Mitchell for The New York Times

FEATURE

The Age of Rudeness

By RACHEL CUSK

As the social contract frays, what does it mean to be polite?

FEATURE

The Dirty Projectors Go Solo

By JONAH WEINER

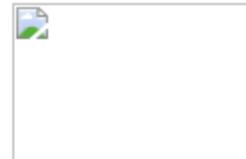
The band created one of indie rock's most indelible sounds, built around the collaboration of David Longstreth and Amber Coffman. Now he's reinventing their music without her.

TALK

Marilyn Minter Finds Art in the Female Form

Interview by JENNA WORTHAM

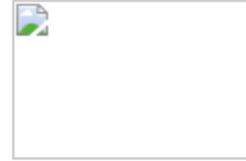
The visual artist on her explicit aesthetic, activism in art and supporting younger feminists.



Letter of Recommendation: Presidential Biographies

By ALEXIS COE

These books don't tell you that everything is going to be O.K. but rather that nothing was ever really O.K. to begin with.



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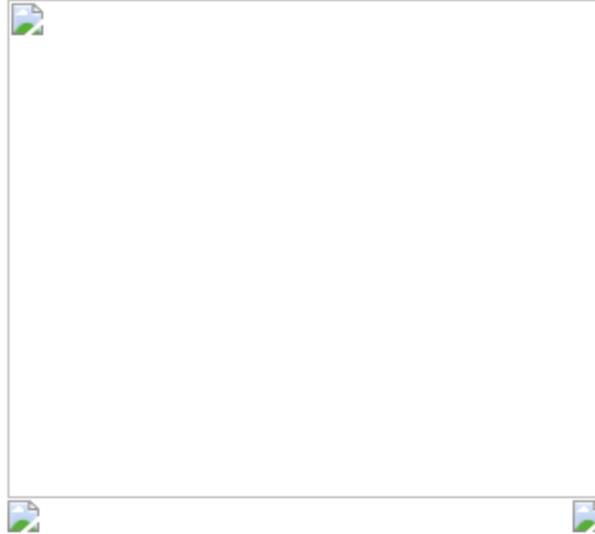


Illustration by Christoph Niemann

My Trip to the DMZ: A 360-Degree Sketchbook

By CHRISTOPH NIEMANN

The demilitarized zone that separates North and South Korea isn't just a geopolitical tinderbox — it's also a tourist attraction.

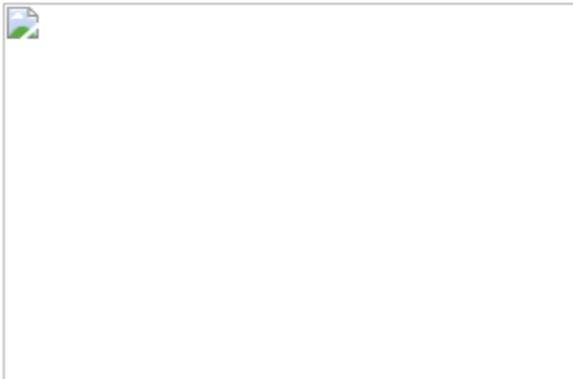
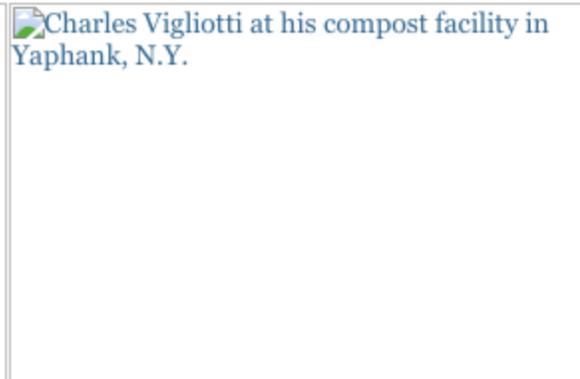


Illustration by Javier Jaén

 Charles Vigliotti at his compost facility in Yaphank, N.Y.



Grant Cornett for The New York Times

FIRST WORDS

Is the ‘Anthropocene’ Epoch a Condemnation of Human Interference — or a Call for More?

By WESLEY YANG

When some climate scientists began saying we’d entered a new epoch, they meant to draw attention to human effects on climate. Now, to their dismay, it’s become a tech call to arms for more disruption.

FEATURE

The Compost King of New York

By ELIZABETH ROYTE

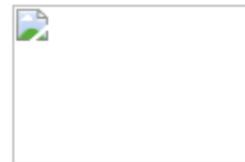
What happens to food scraps after the city takes them? Soon a large fraction will wind up on Long Island, where Charles Vigliotti hopes to turn them into profit.

EAT

In Praise of the Prune

By TEJAL RAO

A frangipane tart that showcases the pleasures of the dried fruit.

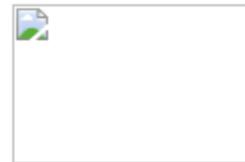


LIVES

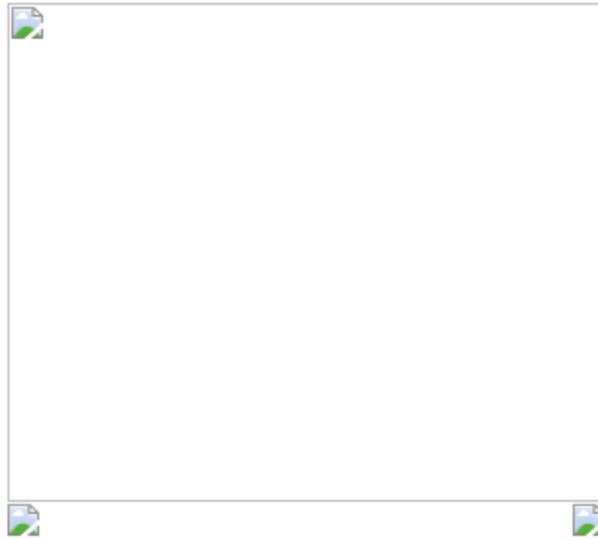
The Cat Named Morphine

By SANDOR JASZBERENYI

Allaying suspicions on the Ukrainian front, with some unexpected assistance.



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