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Saturday, May 6, 2017

[NYTimes.com/Insider »](http://NYTimes.com/Insider)

David Dunlap handles two pigeons that are being fostered by Andy Newman, a fellow Metro reporter.

David Dunlap handles two pigeons that are being fostered by Andy Newman, a fellow Metro reporter.
Stephen Hiltner/The New York Times

Hello Insiders,

If you were reporting on the French election, what would you need to do the job?
A notebook? A pen? An iPhone?

Alissa Rubin, our Paris bureau chief, discovered that what she *really* needed was a pair of snow boots: Her press trip turned ski trip (in a manner of speaking) led her up the Pyrenees via chairlift to cover the presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron as he ate lunch at a ski lodge. Oh, la France! [Read on — it's funny!](#)

Speaking of lunch, Pete Wells, our restaurant critic and “milk-hating curmudgeon” (his words, not mine), explains what he finds hard to resist in a restaurant experience. [It's not the food](#) (though that might be part of it).

Meanwhile ...

Being served in a conference room at the New York Times headquarters: birdseed. Our pets columnist, Andy Newman, brought in two sweet pigeons he's fostering. You can see them in the photo above, with our charming Metro reporter, David Dunlap.

Until next week,

Francesca Donner
Times Insider

What to Read Now

 [A thank-you note left by three migrant teenage girls in a cabin they broke into in Brooks County, Tex.](#)

A thank-you note left by three migrant teenage girls in a cabin they broke into in Brooks County, Tex. George Etheredge for The New York Times

Poignant Paper Trail From the South Texas Border

By MANNY FERNANDEZ

“Sorry for destroying your door and for having used your belongings ...”

On the Mountain Top With a French Presidential Candidate

By ALISSA J. RUBIN

Alissa J. Rubin, the Paris bureau chief, discovered that campaign stops for a French presidential candidate can be a bit different from those for an American one.



What Hospitality Means to Times Restaurant Critic Pete Wells

By PETE WELLS

“If I had a bad day, I don’t take it out on the salmon,” he said. But if a restaurant provides a mood-altering service, it’s relevant to his review.



What Makes Good Neighbors? In This German City, It’s Not Good Fences

By RICK LYMAN

For almost a year, Times reporters followed the process of refugee integration in Weimar, home to both Goethe and Buchenwald.



What We're Reading

Compiled by ANNA DUBENKO

Great reads from around the web, from Kim Severson, Michael Gold and others.



Zika Twins: A Window Into Much More Than a Virus

By PAM BELLUCK

I did not anticipate the situation of João Lucas and Ana Vitória, whose different fates had overwhelmed their mother and led to the brain-damaged boy being placed with a guardian.

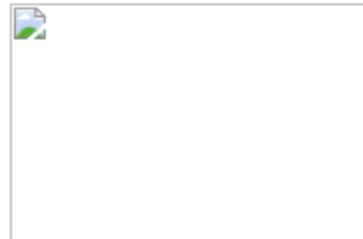


PICTURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Something to Smile About in Northern France

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

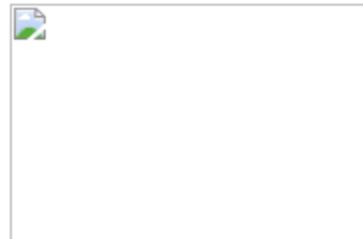
Household by household, families in northern France emerged into the daylight of liberation after three years of German occupation.



Lights, Camera, Obits!

By WILLIAM GRIMES

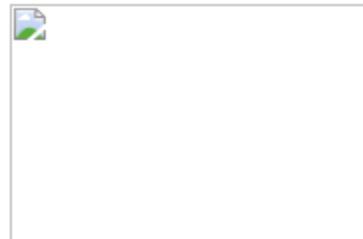
The reporter William Grimes talks about his onscreen appearance in "Obits," a new documentary about a department reveling in newfound glamour.



New York City Transit Reporter in Wonderland: Riding the London Tube

By EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

"It was like being dropped into an alternate universe where people actually like their subway."



The Times Uses Forensic Mapping to Verify a Syrian Chemical Attack

By MALACHY BROWNE

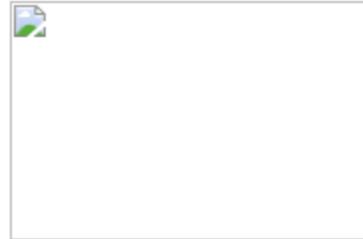
A look at the technology and techniques that enabled our reporters to determine that Russia and Syria had distorted details about the attack in Syria.



'Paid Manipulator' in 1973, Pulitzer Prize Winner in 1978

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

The uproar over the hiring of Bret Stephens as a Times columnist recalls the furor that greeted William Safire's arrival from the Nixon White House.



Things to Do





Chad Batka for The New York Times

New York City

Evening at the Met Opera

May 11

Insiders are invited to join us for a pre-performance talk with opera legend Plácido Domingo followed by “Don Giovanni.” The talk starts at 6:30 p.m.

Read more about the event and purchase tickets [here](#).

New Canaan, Conn.

Visit: Philip Johnson’s Glass House

Ongoing

Times Insiders get a 15% discount to Philip Johnson’s architectural masterpiece. Use the Times Insider code “NYT2017” when buying tickets.

Read more and purchase tickets [here](#).

New York City

Tony Nominees in Concert

May 9

Watch Tony-nominated actors perform scenes and songs from their shows as part of our [In Performance](#) series. Doors open at 11 a.m.

Read more about the event and purchase tickets [here](#).

New York City

Talk: The Art and Craft of the Obit

May 15

How do obituary writers capture a life — and do so on deadline (pun intended)? Times journalist Melena Ryzik leads the discussion, delving into how individual writers approach their craft. The talk starts at 6:30 p.m.

Read more about the event and buy tickets [here](#).

Special offer for Times Insiders: Print this email or show it on your phone at the box office to receive a discount to “Obit” at the following New York theatres:

Film Forum

209 W. Houston St., New York

Times subscribers pay member's price (\$8 per ticket) at all showtimes before 5pm, Monday to Friday only. This special discount runs until May 9.

Lincoln Plaza Cinema

1886 Broadway, New York

Times subscribers pay Senior price (\$11 per ticket) at all showtimes Monday to Friday only. This special discount runs until May 9.

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