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 The New York Times

 The New York Times

Friday, July 28, 2017

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“Flee at once,” read one desperate message. Liang Xiaojun was trying to pretend it was a normal day, even as his cellphone rumbled to life with bleak new warnings. As a human rights lawyer in China, he had come to accept that periodic spasms of repression were an unavoidable risk of his profession. But this day was an unprecedented one: By late afternoon, nearly 60 of his colleagues had vanished.

For this week’s cover story, Alex W. Palmer reports on the [hundreds of Chinese lawyers targeted in one massive crackdown](#) — and the question that hangs over some of their colleagues. Will they give in and protect themselves, or risk everything to keep fighting for the rule of law?

Elsewhere in the magazine, Luca Locatelli photographs the quarries that provide one of our classic symbols of opulence: [Italian marble](#). Alex French writes about Hollywood’s attempts to make movies out of properties that don’t have narratives or even characters, like the [mobile game Fruit Ninja](#). And Wesley Morris writes about the word “[unapologetic](#)” — a term of patriotism for some and resistance for others.

Happy reading,

Jake Silverstein

Editor in Chief

 Liang Xiaojun

Liang Xiaojun Giulia Marchi for The New York Times

‘Flee at Once’: China’s Besieged Human Rights Lawyers

By ALEX W. PALMER

As the global spotlight on the nation’s domestic policies has dimmed, lawyers for dissidents increasingly face a terrible choice: acquiescence or imprisonment.

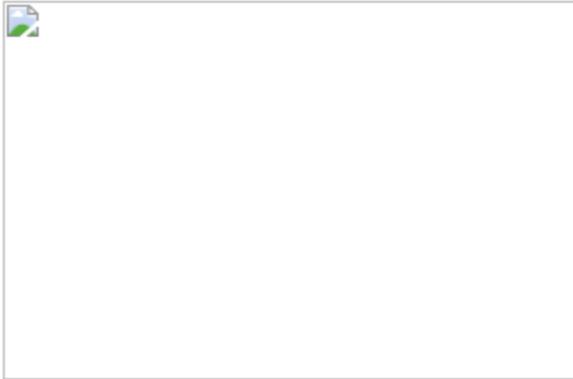


Illustration by Derek Brahney

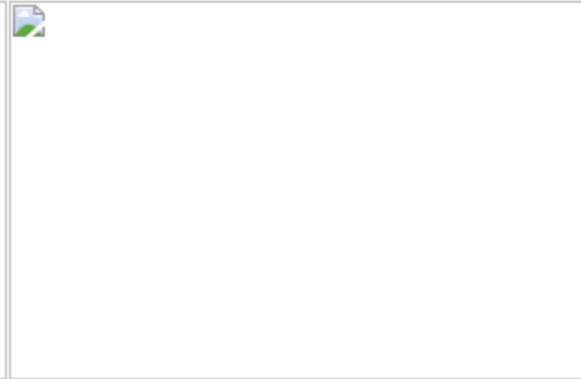


Illustration by Brosmind

Is Being ‘Unapologetic’ the New Patriotic — or a Form of Resistance?

By WESLEY MORRIS

Some Americans’ allergy to apology meets up with exasperation over so-called political correctness. For others, there’s celebration in defiance.

How to Make a Movie Out of Anything — Even a Mindless Phone Game

By ALEX FRENCH

Hollywood is aggressively adapting material that doesn’t have a narrative or even any characters. But not all intellectual property is created equal.

Why Rashida Jones Changed Her Mind About Porn

Interview by ANA MARIE COX

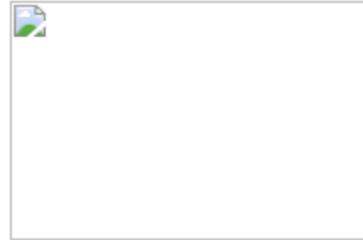
The actor and producer on duck-lips selfies and the intersection of feminism and porn.



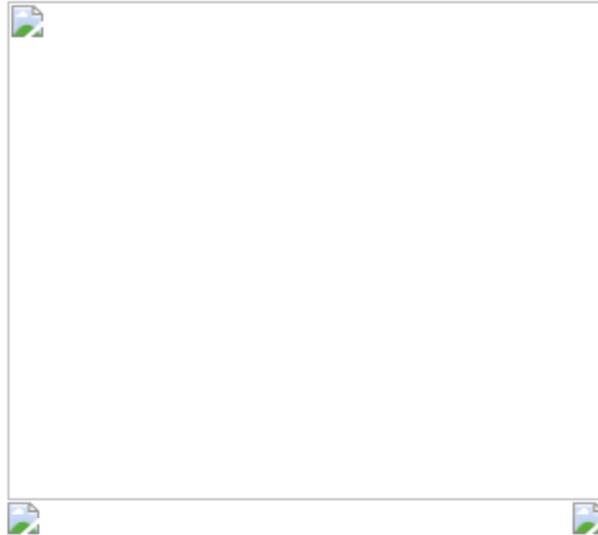
The Emptiness of Trump's Promises of Tolerance

By CHARLES HOMANS

The identity politics of the president's supporters have always been deceptively complicated — but his own have been less so.



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 [Luca Locatelli/Institute, for The New York Times](#)

Luca Locatelli/Institute, for The New York Times

The Majestic Marble Quarries of Northern Italy

By LUCA LOCATELLI AND SAM ANDERSON

Fueled by insatiable demand in the gulf states, the Italian marble trade is booming. A look at how the stone is wrenched from the earth.

 Patra Ni Machhi — fish with green coconut chutney grilled in banana leaves.

 A single app for language skills, self-improvement and digital escape.

Gentl and Hyers for The New York Times

Illustration by Michiel Schuurman

How Grilling Fish Wrapped in Banana Leaves Teaches You to Trust Your Intuition

By SAMIN NOSRAT

Flaky fish with a spicy coconut chutney is Parsi cooking at its best.

Letter of Recommendation: Duolingo

By ANNA FITZPATRICK

A single app for language skills, self-improvement and digital escape.

Is It O.K. to Protest Trump by Withholding Taxes?

By KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

The magazine's Ethicist columnist on refusing to pay taxes as a form of political protest and reaching out to an unacknowledged half sibling.



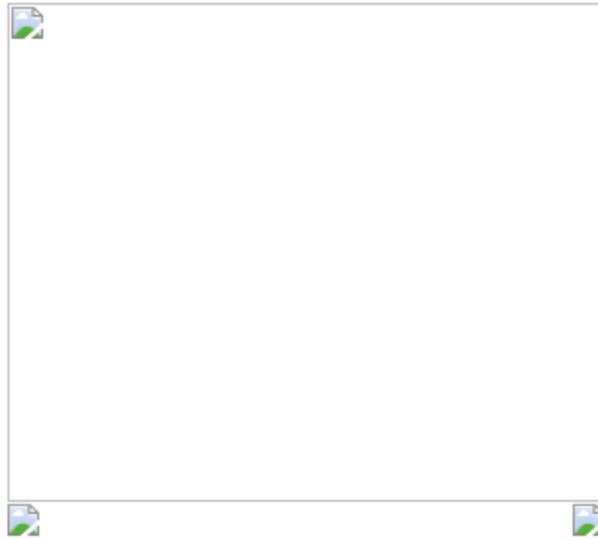
Should Superstar Athletes Make More Money and Run Their Leagues?

By JAY CASPIAN KANG

The Mayweather-McGregor bout and N.B.A. free agency call into question the structure of labor and compensation in American professional sports.



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