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**Subject:** The New York Times Magazine: The Living and the Dead

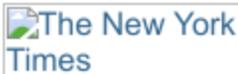
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When ISIS captured Mosul, one of Iraq's largest cities, in June 2014, it marked the zenith of the brutal organization's ascent to power in Iraq and Syria. When the Iraqi military set out to retake it last October, it was clear to Iraqi soldiers and jihadist fighters alike that it would be a battle unlike anything they had yet experienced. As more than one Iraqi soldier told the journalist James Verini of the ISIS fighters, "They want to die."

To tell the story of the [retaking of Mosul](#) in this week's cover story, Verini spent months in and around the city throughout the battle, embedding with Iraqi special forces during the grueling house-to-house fighting and visiting Mosul's displaced civilians in the tent cities that have sprung up for them outside the city. The result is an epic, devastating account of ordinary lives caught up in an extraordinary war, of soldiers all but destroying a city in their efforts to save it.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Ryan Bradley writes about the flood of global acting talent going to Hollywood — and the [dialect coaches](#) who help them get the accents right. Ruth Graham writes about the anti-abortion movement's efforts to promote ["abortion-pill reversals."](#) And Tejal Rao offers a recipe for [cold pork noodles as hot-weather relief](#).

Happy reading,

**Jake Silverstein**

Editor in Chief

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 [A line for aid in western Mosul in April.](#)

A line for aid in western Mosul in April. Peter van Agtmael/Magnum, for The New York Times

# The Living and the Dead

By JAMES VERINI

In October, Iraqi forces set out to retake Mosul, one of Iraq's largest cities and ISIS's biggest stronghold in the country. It would take them nine months and cost thousands of lives.

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 [The mifepristone and misoprostol pills used to induce a medication abortion.](#)

Sarah Anne Ward for The New York Times



Art Streiber for The New York Times

## A New Front in the War Over Reproductive Rights: 'Abortion-Pill Reversal'

By RUTH GRAHAM

A San Diego doctor claims his injection can save a fetus after a medication abortion has already begun — the latest attempt by abortion foes to create a narrative of regret.

## The Accent Whisperers of Hollywood

By RYAN BRADLEY

Peak TV has brought in a flood of global acting talent. It's the job of dialect coaches like Samara Bay to help them all sound right.

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## Is It O.K. to Fire a Muslim Driver for Refusing to Carry Wine?

By KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

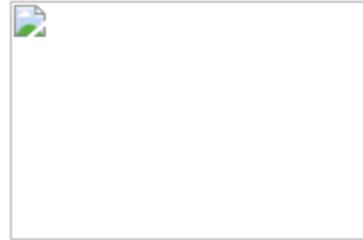
The magazine's Ethicist column on how to balance civil liberties with civil rights.



# Maxine Waters Is Learning From Millennials

Interview by ANA MARIE COX

The congresswoman on going viral and what she would say to Donald Trump.



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Photo illustration by Mauricio Alejo

# Letter of Recommendation: Cold Showers

By BEN DOLNICK

People like to promote the physiological benefits of icy showers, but what it really will improve is your mind.

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 Rice noodles with spicy pork and herbs.



Gentl and Hyers for The New York Times

Illustration by Derek Brahney

## Hot-Weather Comfort Food

By TEJAL RAO

Cold pork noodles dressed in vinegar, from the East Village by way of Yunnan.

## Everywhere You Look, We've Downgraded Real Problems Into Mere 'Issues'

By CARINA CHOCANO

One simple word might help explain how every last thing in our society seems to have become a point of contention.

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## Why Couldn't This Man Stop Hiccapping?

By LISA SANDERS, 

It started as a normal bout, but no remedy cured them. What was causing these relentless spasms?



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## What Will Service Work Look Like Under Amazon?

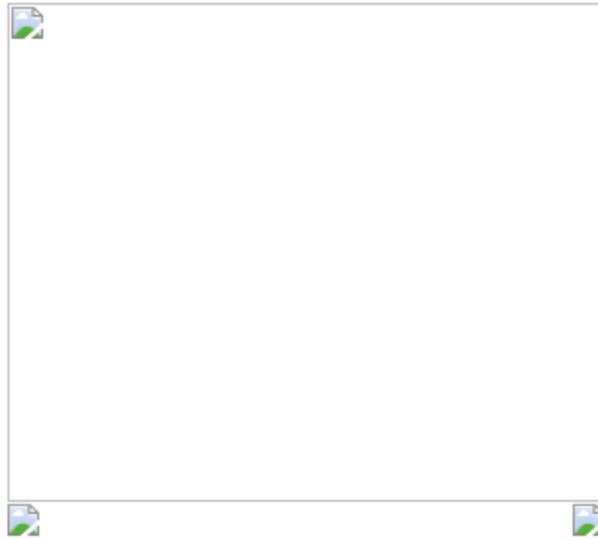
By JOHN HERRMAN

The company's acquisition of Whole Foods sets up a clash between two vastly different visions for the future of labor.



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