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"Inside the culture, you're supposed to be able to take a punch and give a punch and crush a skull," a Marine reserve officer tells Janet Reitman who writes this week's cover story, which traces the way a [Muslim recruit's death revealed a culture of brutality in the Marine Corps](#). Reitman follows recruits on their first days, as they enter the Parris Island training facility where Siddiqui lost his life; she speaks with eyewitnesses; she examines redacted reports prepared by the Marines in the course of their investigations. Together, they paint a picture of horrific treatment of recruits by their drill instructors. Is this really the only way to create a warrior?

Elsewhere in the magazine, Jonathan Mahler introduces us to [all the president's lawyers](#) and their tactics of choice. Heidi Julavits writes about a pilgrimage with her children to see "Spiral Jetty," an artwork that can feel as if it's [at the end of the world](#). And Nikil Saval writes about a political punching bag the left and the right seem content to share: [the "liberal."](#)

Happy reading,

**Jake Silverstein**

Editor in Chief



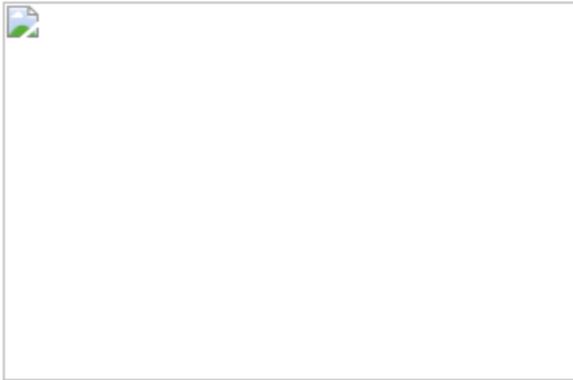
Robert Clark for The New York Times

# How the Death of a Muslim Recruit Revealed a Culture of Brutality in the Marines

By JANET REITMAN

Recruits at Parris Island have been subjected to severe hazing, far beyond that experienced in other U.S. military boot camps. Is this really the only way to create a warrior?

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Ruddy Roye for The New York Times

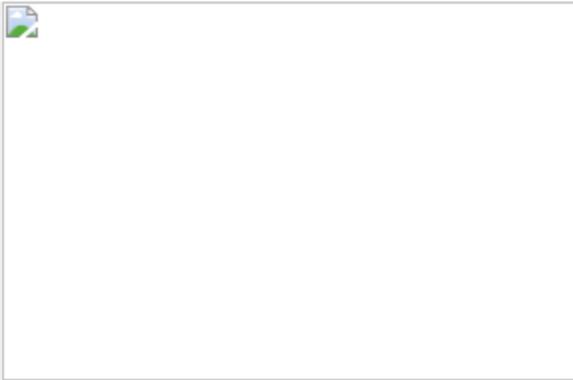


Illustration by Johnny Sampson

## The Art at the End of the World

By HEIDI JULAVITS

A pilgrimage (with children) to see “Spiral Jetty,” Robert Smithson’s profound testament to catastrophe.

## All the President’s Lawyers

By JONATHAN MAHLER

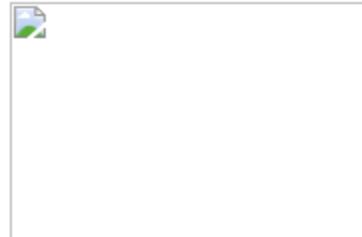
Donald Trump’s life and career have been defined by his legal battles. But do the attorneys who guided him through the courtrooms of New York and New Jersey know how to navigate Washington?

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## Diddy Doesn’t Like to Get Hot

Interview by WILLY STALEY

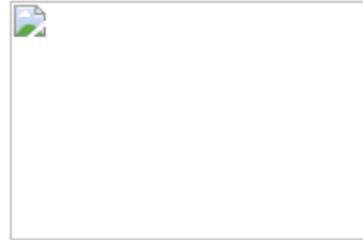
The rapper and producer on his infamous shiny suits, recording the Notorious B.I.G.’s “Hypnotize” and getting turned off by politics during the last election cycle.



# Should I Tell Someone His Father-in-Law Is a Child Molester?

By KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

The magazine's Ethicist columnist on whether to notify a sexual offender's family of his crimes and how much you can interfere with your employees' after-hours pursuits.



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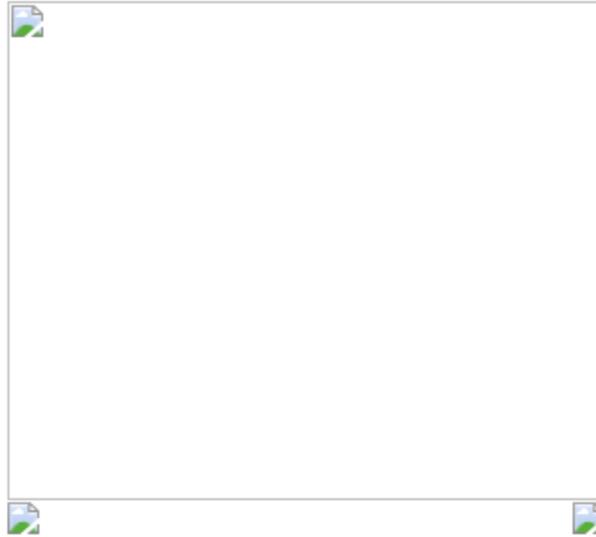


Photo illustration by Derek Brahney

# Hated by the Right. Mocked by the Left. Who Wants to Be 'Liberal' Anymore?

By NIKIL SAVAL

After decades as a target of Republican abuse, liberalism is back in the middle of American politics, criticized on both sides and short on defenders.



Karaoke doesn't have to be a drunken spectacle — sometimes it's best when you do it alone.

Illustration by Adam Ferriss

Illustration by Bráulio Amado

## Finding a More Inclusive Vision of Fitness in Our Feeds

By JENNA WORTHAM

Instagram can perpetuate harmful ideas about the perfect body — but it can also inspire us with bodies that are more like our own.

## Letter of Recommendation: Karaoke at Home

By JENNY ZHANG

Solo singing as an antidote to bullying, racism and rage.

## Why Couldn't the Young Boy Walk?

By LISA SANDERS, M.D.

There was a red ring around each ankle. Could it be an allergy?



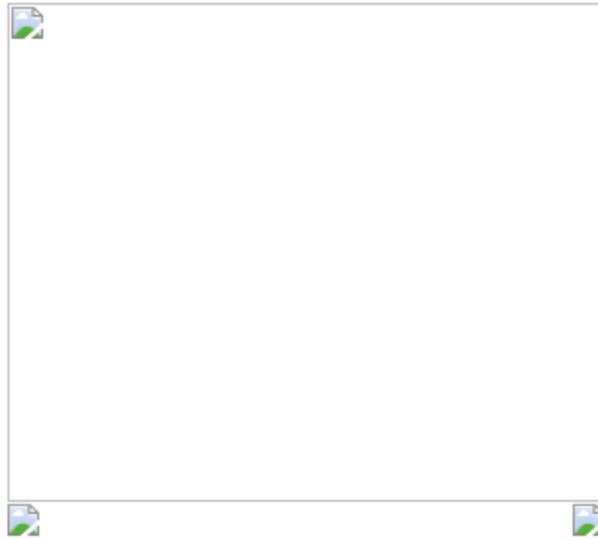
## The Hard-Earned Richness of Wild-Caught Salmon

By SAM SIFTON

The bright color and deep flavor of king salmon can only come from a journey of thousands of miles to the Alaskan coast.



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