



SNEAK PEEK THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

LEGO BATMAN'S CAVE IS STACKED

Will Arnett to voice block-headed superhero in movie next February

IN LIFE

OBAMA, CASTRO: EMBARGO MUST END

Both leaders talk of building new relationships

Gregory Korte
@gregorykorte
USA TODAY

HAVANA President Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro emerged from two hours of meetings in Havana on Monday agreeing on at least one thing: The 54-year economic embargo of Cuba needs to end so the economic ties between the two nations can improve.

Fifteen months after Obama and Castro announced their intent to normalize relations, Obama said he's done almost all he can do to lift travel and trade restrictions without action by Congress. But he said it was only a matter of time before Congress votes to lift the embargo, and that the progress would continue even after he leaves office.

"The embargo's going to end. When, I can't be entirely sure," Obama said. "The reason is that what we did for 50 years did not serve our interests or the interests of the Cuban people."



Cuban President Raúl Castro tries to raise President Obama's hand during a meeting at the Revolution Palace in Havana on Monday. The awkward moment was an Internet sensation.

Obama and Castro's meeting Monday was their third face-to-face encounter since the two countries began to normalize relations 15 months ago, but it was the first on Castro's home turf and the first visit of a U.S. presi-

dent to the island in 88 years.

"For more than half a century, the sight of a U.S. president here in Havana would have been unimaginable. But it's a new day, *el nuevo días*, between out two countries," Obama said.

Castro said while differences remain between the two countries, Obama's visit was a key part toward building a new and positive relationship with the United States. Ties between the two nations started to fray in early 1959,

IN NEWS

► Many in Argentina plan to protest Obama's visit.

► Castro says human rights shouldn't be 'politicized.'

► **Voices:** Baseball, birthplace beckons sportswriter.

► MLB, Cuba seek common ground. **IN SPORTS**

when Castro's brother, Fidel, took power after a revolution ousted the former dictator Fulgencio Batista. The United States then backed an unsuccessful invasion by Cuban exiles in April 1961 and started the economic embargo in February 1962.

Obama said the leaders deepened agricultural ties with Cuba. "With only 90 miles between us, we are natural trading partners," Obama said. He echoed Castro's call for Congress to end the embargo.

On Tuesday, Obama is scheduled to address the Cuban people at El Gran Teatro de Havana, meet with dissidents and watch the Tampa Bay Rays play the Cuban National Team in baseball. Obama will then fly from Havana to Buenos Aires.

NEWSLINE

IN MONEY

Starwood accepts new merger bid from Marriott

Revised \$13.6 billion offer thwarts China's Anbang for now.

Intel's legendary CEO Andy Grove dies at age 79

IN SPORTS

Check out the women's NCAA tourney bracket

IN LIFE

Review: 'Passion' shows little mercy on us

Yearwood, actors can't save the production.



SKIP BOLEN



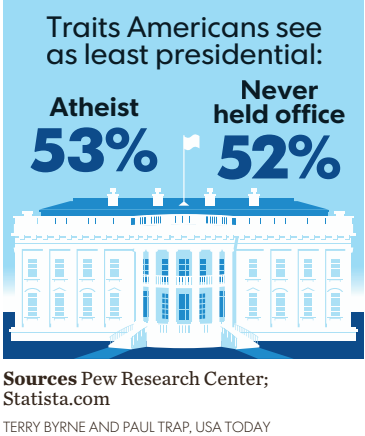
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USA SNAPSHOTS®

Oval Office handicaps



Trump meets with D.C.'s doubtful

David Jackson
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON Donald Trump visited the nation's capital Monday to seek peace with skeptical groups of traditional Republicans and Jewish voters, and predicted he would soon have the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the Republican presidential nomination.

"We should make it pretty easily based on what I'm seeing," Trump told reporters after meeting with current and former Republican lawmakers.

Trump said he has drawn new voters to the Republican Party, and "if people want to be smart, they should embrace this movement."

Trump also denounced talk that some more traditional Republicans might try run their own candidate, saying that would hand the election to the Democrats.

Some Republicans have vowed to never support Trump, saying he is not a true conservative and that his economic and foreign policy proposals are dangerous.



SHAWN THEW, EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY
Trump speaks Monday at AIPAC.

Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama organized a meeting for Trump with GOP lawmakers past and present, including former House speaker Newt Gingrich.

At the AIPAC conference Monday evening, Trump pledged to protect Israel from threats ranging from the Iran nuclear deal to the possibility that the United Nations would seek to impose some sort of settlement with the Palestinians.

"When I become president, the days of treating Israel like a second-class citizen will end on day one," Trump told the influential pro-Israel lobby.

While Trump has taken criticism for previously saying he would be neutral between the Israelis and the Palestinians, at AIPAC he described the Palestinians as unwilling partners and said they will have to stop attacks on Israel before he would support any kind of agreement.

Trump also pledged to move the U.S. Embassy to "the eternal capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem."

For teachers in pricey enclaves, paying the rent a tough assignment

Districts respond by building housing

Madison Park
Special to USA TODAY

After waving goodbye to his first-graders at Malcolm X Academy, public school teacher Anthony Arinwine slings his backpack over his shoulder, gets into his Nissan Altima and becomes an Uber driver.

"It's something I never thought I'd have to do," he said. "I have a college degree and a paycheck. I thought it would be enough."

Arinwine teaches in San Francisco but lives in slightly more affordable Oakland, where his \$1,700 monthly rent eats more than half his monthly pay. Four hours of Uber driving after the 8-hour school day helps bridge the gap.

Arinwine is one of many teachers struggling to live on a public service salary in the Bay Area, where housing costs rank highest in the nation. Many teachers share Arinwine's frustrations.

As the gap between wages and the high cost of living reaches a crisis point, school districts are taking drastic steps to keep their teachers in town: They are building affordable housing for them.

San Francisco announced in October it would take steps to build 100 housing units for the city's educators and consider rental subsidies and forgivable loans to keep 500 educators in the city. The project is still early in development with no time



MADISON PARK FOR USA TODAY

Anthony Arinwine, a San Francisco elementary school teacher, also drives for Uber to help pay for housing in the Bay Area.

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 2A**

FBI may not need Apple's help to hack phone

Kevin Johnson
USA TODAY

On the eve of its scheduled legal showdown in a California court with Apple Inc., the Justice Department's request for a postponement was granted Monday by a federal judge as the FBI tests a new method for unlocking the iPhone of San Bernardino terrorist Syed Farook.

Justice lawyers claimed in court documents filed late Monday that an undisclosed "outside party" demonstrated a "possible method" to the FBI for unlocking

Apple goes small with new devices

Introduces 4-inch iPhone SE, smaller iPad Pro. **IN MONEY**

Farook's phone, recovered in the aftermath of the December massacre that left 14 dead.

"Testing is required to determine whether it is a viable method that will not compromise data on Farook's iPhone," Justice lawyers said in the three-page filing. "If the method is viable, it should eliminate the need for the assistance from Apple Inc."

The government, which earlier

informed Apple of its request, said it would file a status report with the court by April 5. "Our top priority has always been gaining access into the phone used by the terrorist in San Bernardino," Justice spokeswoman Melanie Newman said Monday. "With this goal in mind, the FBI has continued in its efforts to gain access to the phone without Apple's assistance."

Federal authorities declined to identify the outside party working with the FBI. But a federal law enforcement official said authorities have been in discussions with the outside source for a peri-

od of days before the government developed enough confidence to seek a cancellation of Tuesday's hearing. The official, who is not authorized to comment publicly, said the outside party approached the FBI with a potential solution.

The request by the government came as the tech giant Monday was again defending its decision to oppose last month's federal court order, directing the company to help investigators in their attempt to gain access to the phone. "We have a responsibility to help (our customers) protect your data and protect your privacy," Apple CEO Tim Cook said.

VOICES

Time to relish Cuba’s baseball history

Cesar Brioso

USA TODAY Sports



Should Jackie Robinson’s widow, Rachel Robinson, go to Estadio Latinoamericana in Havana on Tuesday, she’ll see a game at the same site where her husband played 69 years ago just before breaking baseball’s color barrier.

Rachel Robinson and her daughter, Sharon, traveled to Havana on Sunday aboard Air Force One for President Obama’s visit to Cuba, including Tuesday’s exhibition game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban national baseball team.

Jackie Robinson’s groundbreaking 1947 major-league season began with spring training in Cuba as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers’ Class AAA Montreal Royals farm team, playing games at what was then called El Gran Stadium.

As a kid growing up in Cuba in the 1940s and ’50s, my father, Cesar, attended games there, watching his favorite team, Almendares, one of Havana’s four professional baseball teams that played in the Cuban League every winter. The Cuban League, which debuted in 1878, had been integrated since 1900 with white major- and minor-league players having Negro League players and black Cubans as teammates.

It was the reason then-Dodgers’ president Branch Rickey relocated the team’s spring training base from Jim Crow-era Daytona Beach, Fla., to Havana in 1947 as he prepared to elevate



AP FILE PHOTO

Brooklyn Dodgers manager Leo Durocher, left, shakes hands with Jackie Robinson of the Montreal Royals before an exhibition game in Havana on March 31, 1947.

Robinson to the majors.

My father didn’t see Robinson play in Cuba, but he saw many others, including future Hall of Famers Ray Dandridge, Monte Irvin and Tommy Lasorda and a then-little known Dodgers minor-league player named Kevin Connors, who would find more fame as Hollywood actor Chuck Connors in *The Rifleman*.

When I was a kid, I would listen to my father’s stories about the different American players — black and white — who would play in Cuba each winter. Those stories fueled my interest in Cuban baseball, an interest that

was heightened once I learned that Robinson’s history-making season began in Cuba. I spent years seeking out those players to chronicle their experiences.

Dodger pitching great Don Newcombe was in Cuba with Robinson, along with Roy Campanella and Roy Partlow, as teammates on the 1947 Royals team in spring training.

While the Dodgers stayed at Havana’s opulent Hotel Nacional, the Royals were housed and trained at the Havana Military Academy, about 15 miles outside the city. Rickey, perhaps out of an abundance of caution, housed

Robinson and his African-American teammates at the Hotel Los Angeles, a place one newspaper described as “a musty, third-rate hotel” that looked “like a movie version of a waterfront hostelry in Singapore.”

Newcombe told me how he was stopped in the lobby of the exclusive Hotel Nacional when he went to talk to Rickey.

“One (white) bellhop put me out of the lobby,” Newcombe said. “I told him I had to see Mr. Rickey with the Dodgers. I was allowed to go to the house telephone and call Mr. Rickey to get permission to go up to his room

to see him.”

Newcombe was with the Cincinnati Reds in 1959, when his team played a pair of spring training games in Havana against the Los Angeles Dodgers. It was the last time any major-league team played in Cuba until the Baltimore Orioles visited in 1999. The practice of Americans playing in Cuba ended in the early 1960s after Fidel Castro came to power.

Like many Cubans, my father fled his country after the revolution, forced to give up his job and his home after he applied for permission to leave for the USA. I was only 5 months old when my family left Cuba in 1965.

My father has refused to go back, fearful because he managed to escape despite being of military draft age at the time. My mother, Maria, returned in 1980, spending a month on a ship in Mariel harbor before finally being able to return with her brother and his family.

I’ve never been back, but I’ve always longed to see the land of my birth. Most of all, I long to see baseball games in Cuba. I long to go to the “Esquina Caliente” — the “Hot Corner” at Havana’s Parque Central, where people still gather as they have for decades to talk baseball. And I long to walk into El Gran Stadium, just as my father did as a die-hard Almendares fan so many years ago.

Watching on television as Air Force One landed in Cuba, I had one thought: “It’s time.”

Brioso, a digital producer for USA TODAY Sports, is the author of *Havana Hardball: Spring Training, Jackie Robinson and the Cuban League*.



MADISON PARK FOR USA TODAY

Anthony Arinwine teaches in San Francisco but lives in slightly more affordable Oakland, where his \$1,700 monthly rent takes more than half his monthly pay.

Gap between wages, cost of living keeps widening

► CONTINUED FROM 1A

frame, according to the mayor’s office. Funding for San Francisco teachers’ housing would come from the city and school district.

“A policy for determining which educators get access to the housing will be adopted by the School Board in the future, should we be able to make an educator housing development financially feasible,” wrote Francis Tsang, chief deputy communication director for San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee.

Cupertino Union School District, the home of Apple, announced in December that it sought to build 200 housing units for its employees by 2019 on the site of an elementary school that closed in 1983. The district will offer the apartments to teachers and staff at below market rates.

“Residing ... in the epicenter of the Silicon Valley, the region’s housing supply has not been able to keep up with the demand due to the influx of workers in the tech sector,” the school district wrote in its announcement. “Equally, the influx of tech workers ... has dramatically increased rental rates.” The school board is likely to discuss the housing proposal in a meeting Tuesday.

Housing affordability is not just a public school teacher’s is-

“I wanted to work in a community and be a model for kids and show them you can do this if you put your mind and effort into it.”

Teacher **Anthony Arinwine**

sue. A 180-unit residential project for Stanford University faculty is set to open by 2017. The university in Palo Alto already oversees more than 700 on- and off-campus units to help its faculty in the heated Bay Area market.

The idea of teachers’ housing is not a new one. More than a decade ago, nearby Santa Clara Unified School District built 40 units to keep its teachers in the high-rent area. That development eventually expanded, adding 30 units in 2009. Nearby San Mateo County Community College District also rents apartments to employees at below-market rates.

School districts in cities including Los Angeles, Milwaukee and Asheville, N.C., have also built teacher housing facilities.

In the Bay Area, David Campos, a member of the San Francis-

co Board of Supervisors said the city needed to address the housing crisis because it is affecting the ability to retain teachers.

But even if the district builds designated housing, it’s unclear whether it will make a real difference for the vast majority of teachers. San Francisco schools employ 9,500 people.

Housing prices are a flash point in the Bay Area as it gentrifies amid an influx of tech workers. Though the median salary for San Francisco teachers is \$67,000, the median rent for one-bedroom apartments is \$3,490 in San Francisco, \$2,210 in Oakland and \$2,200 San Jose, according to January data from Zumper, which analyzes rental listings.

In California, most of the money to fund schools is allocated by the state, leaving little leeway for school districts to raise salaries. “We’re professionals, too,” said Arinwine, who holds a master’s degree. “Without us teachers, there wouldn’t be all these high-paid professionals.”

The situation irks Arinwine, who admits holding down two jobs is sometimes so exhausting that he had to remind himself why he became a teacher: “I wanted to work in a community and be a model for kids and show them you can do this if you put your mind and effort into it.”

A third of emails to U.S. House are malware, viruses

Cyber pests getting trickier, officer warns

Erin Kelly

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON Roughly a third of the 200 million emails received by the U.S. House in 2015 were malware, viruses or spam, according to the top House administrator.

House officials used cyber security tools to detect and block those emails, but the people trying to breach the network are getting craftier, House Chief Administrative Officer Will Plaster said at a recent hearing of the House Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

“The sophistication of those who are trying to infiltrate our network has increased dramatically,” Plaster said. “They’re finding much more creative ways to get into our network.”

Plaster responded to questions from Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss., who said he is concerned about phishing attempts that try to get congressional aides to click on email attachments and links that allow potential spies inside the House network. Hackers who try to get into government networks can range from criminals trying to steal employees’ identities to foreign governments seeking classified information.

“There are bad actors out there who want to know what we’re doing, whether we’re talking about armed services or homeland security issues,” Palazzo said.

The congressman said he worries that hackers might try to “mess with our calendars” by accessing the itineraries of House members who are traveling.

“That information in the wrong hands could be dangerous,” Palazzo said.

Plaster agreed and said the problem is real. “There are plenty of attacks on our network. ... So it is not hypothetical. It is happening,” Plaster said.

A cyber security expert said the volume of attacks on the House network is not unique to the House or to government. “The use of malware has gone up, whether you’re talking about government or the private sector,” said Arun Vishwanath, a professor and cyber security expert at



KAREN BLEIER, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Government computer systems are often outdated, an expert says.

the University of Buffalo.

The government is a particularly soft target because their computer systems are often outdated, the professor said. “They are typically generations behind the more secure systems.”

Corrections & Clarifications



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PREFERS HIGHER DRUG COSTS

Category	Preferred and/or covered drug	Lower-cost drug that's excluded
Diabetic testing	One touch	TrueTest, TrueTrack Acu-check
Diabetic medications	Bydureon, Byetta, Trulicity	Tanzeum, Victoza
Nasal steroids	Nasonex, Qnasi	Beconase, AQ, Omnaris, Veramyst
Eye & ear antibiotics	Ciprodex	Cetralax

Source Pharmacy Outcomes Specialists
GEORGE PETRAS, USA TODAY

COMPANIES STEERING CONSUMERS TO COSTLY NAME-BRAND DRUGS

Drugmakers are offered incentives

Jayne O'Donnell | USA TODAY

Secret deals often prompt drug benefit companies to cover brand-name prescriptions when equally effective generic or even over-the-counter medications are available, several drug pricing experts say. These companies, known as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), negotiate deals with drugmakers that include rebates and other compensation to encourage certain drugs and come up with lists of drugs that their insurance plans will cover. Employers and insurance companies then determine which drugs to encourage on these formularies. The process is so convoluted that the United States' largest insurer, Anthem, discovered what it said were \$3 billion in overcharges by Express Scripts and filed suit Monday against the PBM for damages.

"That the largest insurer has to file suit against the largest PBM is a testament to the complexity that exists in the market," says Michael Rea, CEO of Rx Savings Solutions, which represents health plans.

Express Scripts spokesman Brian Henry said the suit is "without merit. ... Express Scripts has consistently acted in good faith and in accordance with the terms of its agreement with Anthem."

In their deals with drugmakers, PBMs agree to favor the high-cost drugs on the PBMs' formularies and agree they won't place quantity limits or require prior authorization on the drugs, even though doing so would save money and make medical sense, says Linda Cahn, founder and president of Pharmacy Benefit Consultants, which audits PBM contracts.

As drug prices fall under scrutiny following the disclosure of price increases by drugmakers, the role of PBMs is being more closely examined. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is considering whether to require more transparency in the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

Rep. Doug Collins, R-Ga., reintroduced legislation recently to require more public disclosure in



Susan Hayes says brand names are seldom made cheaper than generics.

how PBMs determine reimbursements, especially with government drug benefit programs including Medicare Part D.

Last week, the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, the PBM trade group, launched a campaign

to emphasize that PBMs are part of the solution to high drug prices and not part of the problem.

But those who audit PBM contracts for a living disagree.

"What really gets me started is when PBMs sell their clients on programs that increase costs by encouraging brands so that the PBM can collect rebates," says Susan Hayes, a principal in Pharmacy Outcomes Specialists, which audits PBM contracts.

PBMs pass along some or all of the rebates to their clients, but they seldom make brand-name drugs cheaper than generics for employers and unions, Hayes say.

"Express Scripts nudges patients

to the most clinically appropriate and most affordable medication," spokesman David Whitrap says. "And in almost all cases when a generic is available, the generic is the most cost-effective option."

Hayes says that's incorrect and cited generic diabetes drugs that are cheaper based on their average wholesale price than the generic versions Express Scripts prefers.

An egregious example of the problem, according to Cahn, is the class of ulcer drugs known as "proton-pump inhibitors" or PPIs. The best known is Nexium, which costs several times the price of generics, which often cost far more than many over-the-counter options.

Most plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, are "spending an absurd amount of money" on prescription PPIs, Cahn says.

CVS Caremark, the chain's PBM, doesn't exclude Nexium from its 2016 formulary, but spokeswoman Christine Cramer says "in some cases, although less expensive over-the-counter versions of drugs may be available, some patients will still require access to a prescription drug to treat their condition."

Dayton, Ohio, gastroenterologist Sanjay Sandhir says he has a patient who was spending \$140 a month for her share of the cost of Nexium, so he told her to buy one of the non-prescription over-the-counter versions, which saved her \$100 a month.

"The prices are too high for patients and there's a lack of transparency," Sandhir says.

Cahn says drugmakers should stop selling "copycat PPIs," doctors should stop writing prescriptions for PPIs and PBMs should educate clients on how to cut waste. Pharmacists should suggest patients stop using prescription versions.

Another example: The cholesterol-lowering drug Lipitor is on many formularies even though the generic can save patients hundreds of dollars a month. CVS Caremark excludes Lipitor for coverage, but Express Scripts does not, a review of formularies shows, Cahn says.

IN BRIEF

DOES WHATEVER A SPIDER CAN



JACQUES DEMARTHON, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

French urban climber Alain Robert, also known as "French Spiderman," scales the headquarters building of French oil giant Total in a Paris suburb on Monday.

CONGO REBEL LEADER CONVICTED OF WAR CRIMES

A former Congolese rebel leader and vice president was convicted Monday in a landmark International Criminal Court case that identified sexual violence by troops as a war crime.

Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said the trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba highlighted the critical need to eradicate sex crimes as weapons of war.

Bemba, 53, was accused of allowing his 1,000-man rebel army, the Movement for the Liberation of Congo, to run roughshod over civilians in neighboring Central African Republic in 2002-03.

Testimony revealed numerous instances of women and girls being gang raped at gunpoint, sometimes as their families were forced to watch. — John Bacon

JUSTICES WON'T HEAR MARIJUANA DISPUTE CASE

The Supreme Court refused Monday to referee a simmering dispute between Colorado and two neighboring states over the cross-border impact of marijuana legalization, heartening legalization advocates who feared the high court could have rolled back their gains.

The justices denied an effort by Oklahoma and Nebraska to bring their grievances about pot-relat-

ed crime directly to the nation's highest court without seeking to go through lower courts first.

Oklahoma and Nebraska complained that pot purchased legally in Colorado is being transported illegally into or through their states, overwhelming police and courts dealing with a sudden influx of smugglers.

— Richard Wolf

NORTH KOREA FIRES PROJECTILES INTO SEA

North Korea fired five short-range ballistic missiles into waters off the country's east coast Monday in an apparent rebuke of joint military exercises underway between the United States and South Korea.

The missiles were launched from a site near the northeastern city of Hamhung and flew about 125 miles before landing in waters off North Korea's east coast, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

Hours after the missiles were launched, South Korea and the United States began talks in Seoul on implementing new United Nations sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear test in January and long-range rocket launch last month. Pyongyang has repeatedly issued nuclear strike threats against both Seoul and Washington. — Steph Solis



SAUL LOEB, AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Hillary Clinton speaks to American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington.

Clinton: Trump's view of the world is 'dangerously wrong'

In speech to AIPAC, she attacks rival's foreign policy inexperience

Heidi M. Przybla

USA TODAY

Hillary Clinton went on offense against Republican front-runner Donald Trump on Monday, saying he would abdicate U.S. leadership in the Middle East, his world view is "dangerously wrong" and he is a "bully" — all without speaking his name.

The former secretary of State began her speech before the influential American Israel Public Affairs Committee by slamming candidates who think they can "outsource" Middle Eastern leadership to "dictators" and followed up with a more frontal attack on Trump, who has said wants to be a "neutral" broker between Israelis and Palestinians.

"America can't ever be neutral when it comes to Israel security or survival," Clinton told the AIPAC meeting in Washington. Candidates who think "America no longer has vital national interests at stake in this region are dangerously wrong," she said. "Some things aren't negotiable, and anyone who doesn't under-

stand that has no business being our president," said Clinton.

Trump's stance on foreign policy in the Middle East, including his opposition to the Iraq War, is more isolationist than most recent Republican candidates, and he may face a skeptical audience when he speaks later Monday.

Clinton is seeking to amplify the billionaire real estate mogul's potential weaknesses on foreign policy before a hard-line Jewish audience. Yet she didn't limit her attacks to Israel policy, also calling on attendees to oppose "bigotry" after citing Trump's proposed temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S.

"Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented," she said. "Let us never be neutral or silent in the face of bigotry."

The dueling speeches offer a preview of the foreign policy debate likely to unfold if Clinton and Trump win their party nominations. And Clinton's aggressive attack on Trump indicates she is pivoting to a general election campaign in which she is the likely Democratic nominee after a string of primary wins over Ver-

mont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Yet Clinton is at odds with AIPAC on President Obama's nuclear pact with Iran, which the group tried to stop and which Trump has criticized. Clinton has tried to explain her support for the deal by emphasizing her commitment to enforcement.

Clinton said her approach is to "distrust and verify" that Iran is in fact winding down its nuclear program. "This deal must come with vigorous enforcement," she said, and "clear consequences for any violations."

Trump is getting a mixed reception from American Jews. While a group of liberal Rabbis planned to protest at the conference, some high-profile Republicans may be warming to him. Sheldon Adelson, the Las Vegas casino magnate, has indicated he may be willing to back Trump.

Yet he is facing skepticism after saying in a recent debate that he views himself as impartial when it comes to Israel and Palestine.

In her speech, Clinton emphasized the need for an "unshakeable commitment" to Israel.

ON TRAVEL AGENDA: ARGENTINA, WHICH LOVES ‘TO HATE THE U.S.’



NATACHA PISARENKO, AP

Images of people “disappeared” during Argentina’s military dictatorship are displayed at La Parque de la Memoria, or Remembrance Park, in Buenos Aires.

Kamilia Lahrichi
Special for USA TODAY

Buenos Aires

President Obama will receive a warm welcome from Argentina’s new free-market president but face mass anti-American protests from regular Argentines when he stops here after his historic trip to Cuba this week.

“We Argentines love to hate the U.S.,” said Gustavo Sierra, a journalist at the *Clarín*.

Obama, the first U.S. president to visit Argentina in more than two decades, hopes to strengthen economic and political ties with Latin America and conservative President Mauricio Macri during his two-day visit, starting Wednesday.

Macri took office in December, vowing to reverse many policies of his leftist predecessors, who imposed tight controls over the economy. One quick change: He lifted currency controls to allow a free exchange of the Argentine peso for U.S. dollars.

Obama plans to lay a wreath at the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral, where Pope Francis served as archbishop. Obama will hold a town hall with the Young Latin

American Leaders Initiative before traveling Thursday to Bariloche and Patagonia.

The visit is controversial because it comes on the 40th anniversary of the military coup March 24, 1976, that the United States first supported, and resentment lingers over the tens of thousands of people who disappeared or were killed under military dictatorship.

Obama, who plans to declassify U.S. documents that shed light on



JUAN MABROMATA, AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Source ESRI
USA TODAY

“I feel upset because ... Obama’s visit is meant to promote the Trans-Pacific Partnership. ... It is led by large corporations and filled with secret clauses.”

Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner
Adolfo Pérez Esquivel

the U.S. role during the Argentine military’s infamous “dirty war,” is likely to address that chapter of history during his trip.

Argentine Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel wrote in an open letter that Obama would not be welcome on Thursday’s anniversary because the United States “has been and is behind all the destabilization attempts on popular governments of our continent.”

About 10,000 people are likely to protest on the anniversary in the iconic Plaza de Mayo, carrying banners that read, “Memory Day, Obama Get Out!” “I will attend the event to protest against corpora-

tions,” said Gustavo Obligado, 25, a musician in Buenos Aires.

“I feel upset because ... Obama’s visit is meant to promote the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which Macri wants to join. It is led by large corporations and filled with secret clauses ... which threaten countries’ sovereignty,” he said.

The 12-nation TTP is one of the largest economic treaties to lower trade barriers. Concluded in 2015, it has drawn political opposition in the USA as well.

Macri, 57, told the Associated Press last week that Obama’s visit is a chance to show that Argentina is cleaning up its act and wants to open the country to investment. “A year from now ... we hope to be receiving investments from all over the world,” he said.

Buenos Aires lawyer Yamil Santoro called Obama’s visit “a step in the right direction. I think that it gives us the possibility to ... improve our international standing and generate agreements to foster development.”

Contributing: Gregory Korte in Washington

President offers support to Cuban entrepreneurs

Gregory Korte and Alan Gomez
USA TODAY

HAVANA It’s fair to say President Obama has learned at least one word of Cuban Spanish since normalizing relations with communist Cuba 15 months ago.

Cuentapropista.

These self-employed people work outside state-sponsored businesses, either as sole proprietors or employees of small businesses. They are mostly in the service industries: cabdrivers, restaurant owners, barbers, mechanics and even cigarette-lighter repairmen.

“Today, about half a million Cubans, including some of you, are proud *cuentapropistas*, running your own restaurants, cafes, beauty salons, barber shops. Or working as artists, seamstresses and taxi drivers,” Obama said, noting that these businesses employ about a third of the Cuban people.

“With help from services like Airbnb, more Americans are staying at your *casas particulares* and eating at your *palan-*

dars, like my family did last night,” Obama said, struggling to pronounce the Spanish words for private bed and breakfasts and restaurants.

“The food was really good, even if my Spanish is not that great.”

Obama spoke Monday at a meeting of Cuban entrepreneurs, where he became an evangelist for capitalism in a country dominated by a socialist regime for nearly six decades.

The United States, he said, was “built on entrepreneurship and market-based principles, and it’s produced wealth that’s unmatched in the history of the world.” He argued that those same market principles could help empower the Cuban people by making them less reliant on government.

To help spread that message, Obama brought with him to Cuba an entourage of CEOs from 11 companies, including Airbnb and Paypal.

“What we represent is diplomacy on a person-to-person level,” said Brian Chesky of Airbnb, which has 4,000 bed-and-breakfast-style homes for rent in Cuba.



JACK GRUBER, USA TODAY

President Obama listens to questions, along with journalist and small-business owner Soledad O’Brien, while attending a business summit in Havana.

Obama, Castro talk human rights

Groups list names of those held by regime

Gregory Korte
USA TODAY

HAVANA Allegations of human rights abuses in Cuba dominated the discussion between President Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro on Monday.

“Did you ask if we have political prisoners?” Castro challenged a television reporter after consulting with an aide about whether he should even answer the question. “Give me a list of the political prisoners, and I will release them directly. Give me a name or names. ... It is not correct to ask me about political prisoners in general.”

Human rights groups quickly released their own lists, saying the Castro regime detained 8,000 people for political reasons last year.

Obama said the United States “will continue to speak out on democracy and fundamental human rights,” but he sought to reassure Cuba that he would not impose U.S. values. “Cuba is sovereign and rightly has great pride, and the future of Cuba will be decided by Cubans and not anybody else.”

Human rights, Obama said, does not have to be the only issue U.S. and Cuban leaders discuss, “but this is something we’re going to stay on.”

Castro said he did not think human rights issues “should be politicized.” Castro said human rights mean different things to different countries. For example, women in Cuba receive equal pay for the same work as men, which is not true in other nations.

The unusual news conference allowed Castro to show the rhetorical style that, though more subdued than his brother Fidel, remained animated and defiant at age 84. There were some bizarre



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Obama takes part Monday in a wreath-laying at the Jose Martí Memorial in the Revolution Square in Havana.



JACK GRUBER, USA TODAY

Members of the Ladies in White begin their weekly protest march Sunday.

moments, as when Castro aides suddenly appeared from behind a curtain and whispered comments to him. When Obama tried to get Castro to take more questions than they had agreed to, Castro demurred.

“There is a program here to be fulfilled, I know if I stay here, you will ask 500 questions,” he said. “I said I would answer one. Well, I will answer one and a half.”

Castro then delivered his own exposition on human rights, saying the United States does not guarantee the right to health care, education or equal pay for women. Obama said that he welcomed criticism of the United States

from Castro and other Cuban leaders, which he called a sign of progress and that the two nations can speak candidly.

The United States has problems with the human rights records of many nations, such as China, Obama said. Despite those disagreements, he said, economic ties can improve.

Members of Congress who traveled to Cuba with Obama said the Cuban government needs to do more on human rights.

“There have been some baby steps taken when it comes to the economy and the release of dissidents. More has to happen on the Cuban side,” said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.

Obama and Castro have met twice before: first at the Pan-American summit in Panama and again at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. There have been no plans announced for Castro to visit Washington.

Obama began the day with a wreath-laying at a memorial to Jose Martí, a turn-of-the-century Cuban nationalist leader who was a unifying figure in the country’s history.

YOUR SAY

Tracking the nation's conversation

FOREIGN POLICY

Obama overtures toward Cuba are worth trying

 **TWITTER**
@USATOPINION

We asked what our followers thought about President Obama's historic trip to Cuba.

I am glad he is trying to restore our diplomatic relationship with Cuba! Huge congrats to Obama.
@Donoovaan_

Obama's dreadful foreign policy continues, making concessions to despots, receiving nothing in return.
@BaylorRangers

I think that a visit by POTUS is long overdue. But the help of the Holy Father enabled and expedited this visit.
@ronaldwgumbs

We deal with much worse countries than Cuba. Don't see a problem.
@TheThirdPartyUS

It's about time. Let's give Cuba the same chances we've given the Chinese.
@juanito10025

A slap in the face to the people of Cuba. Unless this would help them be free, he has no business being there.
@ksr10sfan

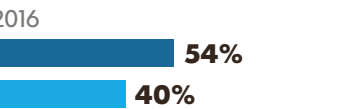
You keep your friends close and your enemies closer. Besides, we want to expose them to what America has to offer.
@TennRobt

Follow **@USATOpinion** or **#tellsatoday** for more.

IMAGE IMPROVES

What is your opinion of Cuba?

Favorable **Unfavorable**
No opinion



Source Gallup Poll conducted Feb. 3-7 of 1,021 adults nationwide; margin of error is ±4 percentage points
KARL GELLES, USA TODAY

f FACEBOOK
FACEBOOK.COM/USATODAYOPINION

The embargo of Cuba did not achieve its aims. You can engage, and with time achieve gradual change. It will be too fast for some, and for others not fast enough, but there will be change.

Going backward is not an option that will be effective.

Dan Porath

This "normalization" of the relationship has nothing to do with human rights. It's about dollars. Cuba, being so close to the U.S. and having an economically oppressed population, is a perfect breeding ground to leverage a low-cost labor pool.

Jake Lessnar

Maybe if we talk, we will have better luck than by forcing an embargo.

Chuck Boyle

 **LETTERS**
LETTERS@USATODAY.COM

I have no problem with the U.S. opening up trade and travel with Cuba. In a not-so-perfect world, we also have to be realistic. As we opened up with communist China, so we should open up with communist Cuba. We can't pretend the country doesn't exist.

But let's lay off the jolly smiles and the hugs. The Castro regime has killed and tortured innocent Cubans. I cringe when I see the pope or any foreign leader hug and smile with these communist thugs. When Obama visits Cuba, he should lay off the hugs, smiles and handshakes, and get down to the nitty-gritty and in plain language tell the Castro boys that either they respect human rights or the deal is off. Simple as that.

To embrace the Castros is a slap in the face of the memories of all the Cubans who have suffered and died under communist rule. Is that asking too much of the president?

Tom R. Kovach
Nevis, Minn.

POLICING THE USA
POLICING.USATODAY.COM

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TOON TALK



Increase opportunity for women in Hollywood

f FACEBOOK
FACEBOOK.COM/USATODAYOPINION

Celebrities are calling out inequality in pay and creative opportunities for women in Hollywood, according to a USA TODAY article ("Stars declare war on sexism," Life, March 15).

We vote with our dollars. Hollywood, which always has some sort of agenda to push, is still a business. If women and minorities (and everyone else) don't purchase movie tickets, the situation will change!

And women and minority actors could go on strike, but because of the big money involved, they won't.

Wm Craft

Men will always benefit as long as the studios are owned by them; ladies, buy up the damned studios!

Stephanie Dickens

I'm all for equal pay and opportunities for everyone, but

it's hard to listen to someone who just made millions of dollars for a few months of work whining.

I care about the women who are battling it out in the real dog-eat-dog world trying to pay the rent, put food on the table and keep the heat on.

Paul Jarosz

I'd like to see a study showing which gender spends the most money to watch movies, including DVD purchases. Then we can ask which producer or director — male or female — can give what that viewer wants.

It's all about selling tickets and making money.

Bob Rejefski Sr.

The war on rich white males is a long and tired act. If you want equality, go and earn it. If the movies are that good, people will go and see them.

Michael Bassett

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WEATHER

WEATHER ONLINE
USATODAY.COM

FRONT & CENTER

Never leave a child or pet inside a car: The temperature inside a car can rise **20 degrees** in as little as **10 minutes**.



On this date in **1907**, **Washington, D.C.**, soared to **90 degrees**, the city's **earliest** 90-degree reading on record.

WHAT DOES A TORNADO SOUND LIKE?

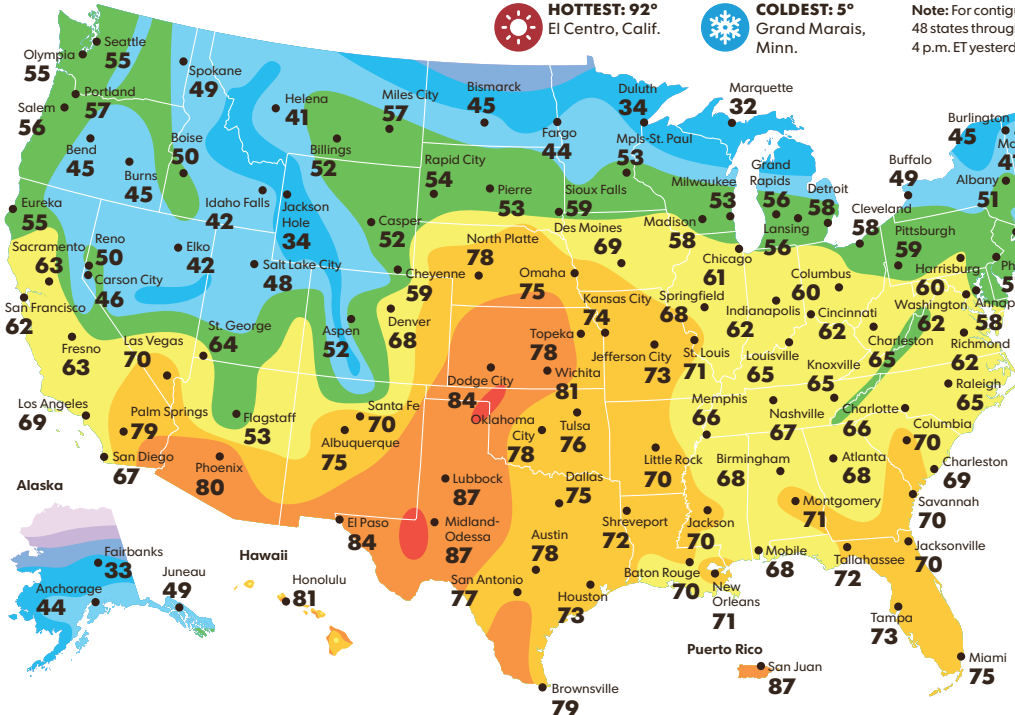
The most common sound is a continuous rumble, like a nearby train.



Sources Golden Gate Weather Services, AccuWeather, Storm Prediction Center

Doyle Rice and Karl Gelles
@USATODAYWeather

TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



YESTERDAY'S EXTREMES

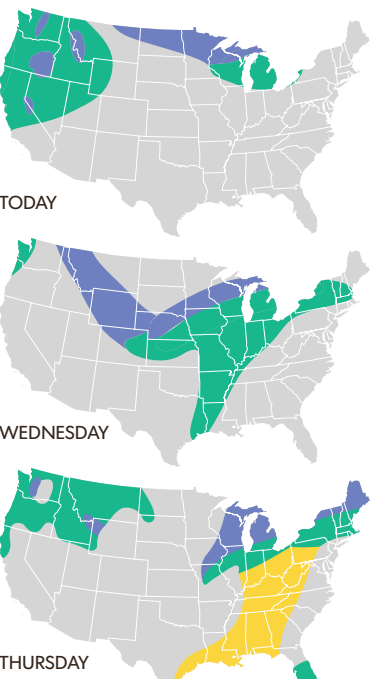
HOTTEST: 92°
El Centro, Calif.

COLDEST: 5°
Grand Marais, Minn.

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 4 p.m. ET yesterday

PRECIPITATION FORECAST

● T-storms ● Rain ● Snow ● Ice/mix



TOP TRAVEL CITIES

Air quality index (AQI)

ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	BOSTON	CHARLOTTE	CHICAGO	DALLAS	DENVER	DETROIT	HONOLULU	HOUSTON	LAS VEGAS	LOS ANGELES
TUE ☀️ Warmer 68/45	TUE ☁️ Partly sunny 59/47	TUE ☀️ Mostly sunny 47/39	TUE ☀️ Mostly sunny 66/45	TUE ☁️ Warmer 61/46	TUE ☁️ Windy 75/62	TUE ☁️ Partly sunny 68/32	TUE ☁️ Not as cool 58/47	TUE ☁️ Shower 81/69	TUE ☀️ Mostly sunny 73/62	TUE ☀️ Not as warm 70/49	TUE ☁️ Fog to sun 69/52
WED ☁️ Some sun, nice 73/55	WED ☁️ Warmer 69/49	WED ☁️ Shower 55/39	WED ☀️ Sunny, breezy 74/51	WED ☁️ Rain, cooler 50/41	WED ☁️ T-storm 83/47	WED ☁️ Snow, 31° 41/22	WED ☁️ Rain, cooler 51/43	WED ☁️ Showers 81/69	WED ☁️ A stray shower 77/54	WED ☁️ Partly cloudy 69/50	WED ☁️ Fog to sun 75/55
THU ☁️ Spotty showers 71/46	THU ☁️ Incr. clouds 74/54	THU ☁️ A quick shower 47/41	THU ☀️ Partly sunny 77/53	THU ☁️ Morning rain 44/27	THU ☀️ Sunny, cooler 64/40	THU ☁️ Partly sunny 46/28	THU ☁️ Rain, windy 50/29	THU ☁️ Showers 82/69	THU ☁️ T-storm 67/44	THU ☀️ Sunny 75/53	THU ☀️ Sunny 79/56
AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate
MIAMI	MPLS-ST. PAUL	NEW ORLEANS	NEW YORK	ORLANDO	PHILADELPHIA	PHOENIX	SALT LAKE CITY	SAN DIEGO	SAN FRANCISCO	SEATTLE	WASHINGTON
TUE ☁️ Partly sunny 75/66	TUE ☁️ Mostly cloudy 53/32	TUE ☀️ Mostly sunny 71/60	TUE ☁️ Partly sunny 53/46	TUE ☀️ Warmer 75/54	TUE ☁️ Partly sunny 57/47	TUE ☁️ Not as warm 80/54	TUE ☁️ A few showers 48/35	TUE ☁️ Fog to sun 67/54	TUE ☁️ Mostly cloudy 62/49	TUE ☁️ Mainly cloudy 55/44	TUE ☁️ Warmer 62/48
WED ☁️ Partly sunny 81/73	WED ☁️ A bit of snow 39/25	WED ☁️ Some sun 78/66	WED ☁️ Warmer 67/49	WED ☀️ Mostly sunny 80/61	WED ☁️ Warmer 69/49	WED ☁️ Partly sunny 77/52	WED ☁️ A bit of snow 49/35	WED ☁️ Fog to sun 73/54	WED ☁️ Partly sunny 65/51	WED ☁️ Shower 54/44	WED ☁️ Warmer 72/54
THU ☁️ Shower 84/73	THU ☁️ A bit of snow 39/26	THU ☁️ Severe storm 78/53	THU ☁️ Some sun 68/54	THU ☁️ Spotty showers 84/65	THU ☁️ Partly sunny 74/57	THU ☀️ Sunny 81/53	THU ☁️ Partly sunny 56/40	THU ☀️ Sunny 74/57	THU ☀️ Sunny 67/52	THU ☁️ A stray shower 50/41	THU ☁️ Incr. clouds 75/57
AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Moderate	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good	AQI Good

☁️ Cloudy ☁️ Fog ❄️ Ice ☔️ Rain ❄️ Snowflurries ☁️ Snow 🌀 Windy 🌧️ Drizzle 🌫️ Haze ☁️ Partly cloudy ☀️ Sunny ☁️ Showers ⚡️ Thunderstorms

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	WED
Akron, Ohio	57/45pc	62/50pc
Albany, N.Y.	51/40pc	56/30c
Albuquerque	75/37w	68/30w
Allentown, Pa.	57/41pc	68/44c
Amarillo, Texas	87/44s	60/30w
Anaheim, Calif.	71/47pc	76/48s
Anchorage, Alaska	44/34c	47/32c
Aspen, Colo.	52/23c	38/18r
Atlantic City, N.J.	52/47pc	64/49pc
Austin, Texas	69/39s	77/48s
Bakersfield, Calif.	66/45pc	70/46s
Baton Rouge, La.	70/56s	77/61pc
Billings, Mont.	52/29c	51/33sn
Birmingham, Ala.	68/50s	73/58pc
Bismarck, N.D.	45/22c	41/21pc
Boise, Idaho	50/33c	55/38pc
Buffalo, N.Y.	49/42c	46/33r
Burlington, Vt.	45/33pc	38/25c
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	63/46f	50/28t
Charleston, S.C.	69/50s	79/57s
Charleston, W.Va.	65/46pc	73/52pc
Cheyenne, Wyo.	59/25pc	53/21sn

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	WED
Cincinnati	62/48w	65/56c
Cleveland	58/46c	52/48c
Colorado Springs	67/35pc	47/22sn
Columbia, S.C.	70/42s	78/52s
Columbus, Ohio	60/48w	64/52c
Corpus Christi, Texas	78/68pc	85/63pc
Dayton, Ohio	60/48w	63/54c
Daytona Beach, Fla.	71/53s	78/62s
Des Moines, Iowa	69/49f	54/29t
Duluth, Minn.	34/22sn	59/50sh
Durham, N.C.	65/46s	75/54s
El Paso, Texas	84/56w	71/39w
Fairbanks, Alaska	33/11pc	36/10c
Flagstaff, Ariz.	53/22w	50/17pc
Fargo, N.D.	44/26c	39/22pc
Fort Myers, Fla.	76/57s	81/65s
Fort Smith, Ark.	75/56s	75/44t
Fort Wayne, Ind.	59/48w	59/50sh
Fresno, Calif.	63/43pc	67/46s
Grand Rapids, Mich.	56/43c	43/34r
Green Bay, Wis.	49/30c	53/26sn
Greensboro, N.C.	64/46s	73/52s
Greenville, S.C.	67/43s	74/49s
Harrisburg, Pa.	60/43pc	68/44pc

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	WED
Hartford, Conn.	51/39s	63/41c
Indianapolis	62/49w	63/54c
Islip, N.Y.	50/43s	62/45c
Jackson, Miss.	70/54s	75/61pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	70/48s	81/57s
Jefferson City, Mo.	73/56s	73/44c
Kansas City	74/59s	77/32w
Key West, Fla.	75/70h	81/75c
Knoxville, Tenn.	65/44s	70/54pc
Laredo, Texas	84/65s	93/64s
Lexington, Ky.	63/48s	67/57pc
Lincoln, Neb.	77/44w	57/28r
Little Rock, Ark.	70/55s	72/53pc
Long Beach, Calif.	70/49pc	74/51s
Louisville, Ky.	65/50s	68/59pc
Lubbock, Texas	87/49s	70/33w
Madison, Wis.	58/34f	59/29r
Manchester, N.H.	48/38pc	55/37r
Memphis, Tenn.	66/55s	70/56w
Milwaukee	53/36c	40/32r
Mobile, Ala.	68/54s	73/63pc
Modesto, Calif.	65/45pc	68/45s
Montgomery, Ala.	71/46s	75/60pc
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	65/52s	75/59s

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	WED
Nags Head, N.C.	58/51s	71/58s
Nashville, Tenn.	67/50s	71/60pc
Newark, N.J.	56/45pc	69/48pc
New Haven, Conn.	70/54s	75/61pc
Norfolk, Va.	62/49s	75/56s
Oakland, Calif.	63/47pc	65/50s
Oklahoma City	78/58w	77/37w
Omaha, Neb.	75/47f	54/28r
Palm Springs, Calif.	79/57s	80/54s
Pensacola, Fla.	68/57s	74/66pc
Pierre, S.D.	53/29sh	41/18sn
Pittsburgh	59/48pc	65/52pc
Portland, Maine	44/34pc	46/30c
Portland, Ore.	57/43sh	58/44c
Providence, R.I.	46/39s	61/41c
Raleigh, N.C.	65/44s	75/52s
Rapid City, S.D.	54/27sh	39/22sn
Reno, Nev.	50/29c	58/33s
Richmond, Va.	62/45s	74/51s
Rochester, N.Y.	48/42c	44/33r
Sacramento, Calif.	67/43pc	68/45s
San Antonio	77/62s	84/55s
San Jose, Calif.	62/45pc	67/48s
Santa Fe, N.M.	70/30w	55/22w

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	WED
Sarasota, Fla.	74/56s	81/64s
Savannah, Ga.	70/48s	78/56s
Scottsdale, Ariz.	78/51s	75/49pc
Shreveport, La.	72/58s	77/53pc
Sioux Falls, S.D.	59/32f	36/19sn
South Bend, Ind.	60/47pc	58/46r
Spokane, Wash.	49/35c	49/39pc
Springfield, Mo.	71/57w	72/43t
Springfield, Ill.	68/52s	66/46c
St. Louis	71/55s	69/47c
St. Petersburg, Fla.	73/59s	81/66s
Syracuse, N.Y.	47/41pc	47/34r
Tallahassee, Fla.	72/43s	79/53s
Tampa, Fla.	73/58s	80/66s
Toledo, Ohio	60/49pc	58/43c
Topeka, Kan.	68/49s	73/33w
Tucson, Ariz.	84/49pc	73/43pc
Tupelo, Miss.	68/49s	74/59pc
Tulsa, Okla.	76/61w	81/38s
Virginia Beach, Va.	61/53s	74/60s
Wichita, Kan.	81/54w	73/33w
Wilmington, Del.	56/44pc	67/47pc
Winston-Salem, N.C.	64/45s	74/52s
Worcester, Mass.	44/36s	56/37c

WORLD CITIES	TODAY	WED
Beijing	60/40c	58/29pc
Buenos Aires	78/56pc	81/57s
Cancun, Mexico	79/67pc	84/75pc
Dubai, UAE	83/71f	78/68t
Frankfurt	49/37sh	50/33sh
Hong Kong	72/66sh	74/62sh
Istanbul	64/53pc	66/52pc
Jerusalem	60/47s	69/57s
Johannesburg	71/52pc	74/54pc
London	54/42pc	54/41pc
Mexico City	74/51pc	78/54pc
Montreal	59/27pc	35/17sf
Moscow	29/17sn	28/16sf
Mumbai, India	94/78h	96/79h
Paris	52/39pc	52/40pc
Rio de Janeiro	92/78pc	89/75t
Rome	70/51t	61/45w
Seoul	55/36pc	54/32pc
Singapore	88/80pc	91/79pc
Sydney	71/62sh	77/64s
Toronto	46/40sh	41/31r
Tokyo	58/46s	59/42pc

OPINION

TODAY'S DEBATE **SMOKING**

Our view

Raise cigarette sales age and see whether it helps

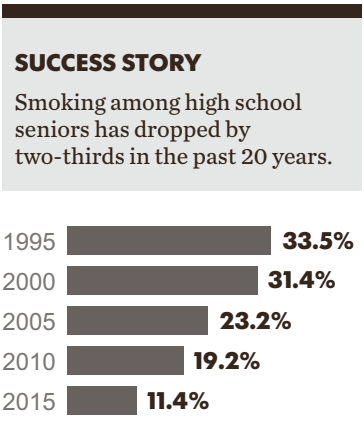
When California lawmakers voted this month to raise the legal age to buy cigarettes from 18 to 21, they joined Hawaii and more than 100 localities in seeking a new way to prevent vulnerable teenagers from getting hooked.

Almost everyone who smokes started by age 18, research shows. The tobacco industry, among the world's slickest marketers, has known and used that fact to its benefit for decades. "Raising the legal minimum age for cigarette purchaser to 21 could gut our key young adult market (17-20) where we sell about 25 billion cigarettes," a Phillip Morris report noted in 1986.

This suggests that raising the age is worth a try. Gov. Jerry Brown, D-Calif., ought to sign the measure, and careful study is warranted to find out to what degree the change affects teen smoking.

Parents and public health advocates shouldn't get their hopes too high. Teenage behavior is unpredictable and resourceful; many teens use fake IDs to buy alcohol and no doubt would do the same for tobacco. But unless a few states make the change, the value can't be calculated. Right now, all but five states set the legal purchase age at 18. In Alabama, Alaska, New Jersey and Utah, it is 19. Hawaii went to 21 on Jan. 1.

Although smoking rates among



Source Monitoring the Future national survey
KARL GELLES, USA TODAY

high school seniors have fallen drastically, from 33.5% in 1995 to 11.4% last year, that still leaves millions of adolescents addicted and vulnerable in later years to cancer, heart disease and premature death. Raising taxes, running anti-smoking ad campaigns, and making smoking less cool have worked, but more is needed.

Last year, the respected Institute of Medicine projected that if the legal age were raised to 21, by the time today's teenagers became adults smoking prevalence would be cut by 12%. The greatest impact, the IOM found, would likely be among teens 15 to 17.

Plenty of reasons exist to try to cut further into youth smoking. Nicotine exposure during adoles-

cence is likely to adversely affect cognitive function and development. Adolescents are more prone to addiction than adults because parts of the brain most responsible for decision-making, impulse control and susceptibility to peer pressure are still developing. As for the health effects, the risks for smoking-related illness rise not only with the number of cigarettes smoked per day but also with the number of years a person smokes.

The most persistent argument against raising the age is that at 18, people have the right to marry, to vote and to serve in the military, so they should be able to choose to smoke. But society does set 21 as the age for another dangerous activity, drinking alcohol — a change that has prevented about 900 drunken driving deaths a year. Smoking is the public's business, too: Everyone helps pick up the tab for the enormous health care costs of tobacco-related illnesses.

In Finland, daily smoking dropped significantly among 14- to 16-year-olds after the legal age was raised from 16 to 18 and enforcement was bolstered. There's no comparable research in the USA, which is precisely the point. Given the tobacco industry's success in getting young people hooked, it's worth finding out whether the U.S. has been missing a powerful tool to save lives.

Opposing view

21 for cigarettes, but 18 for pot?

Mike Gatto

Should you have to be 21 to buy beer and cigarettes, but 18 to smoke marijuana? If a measure that passed the California Legislature is signed into law, that's exactly what will happen. The measure would raise the legal age to buy cigarettes to 21, the same as it is for alcohol.

How could this happen? Certainly, many of the same arguments that apply to limiting the use of alcohol and cigarettes apply with equal force to marijuana. Teenagers tend to get hooked more easily. Young people driving impaired remains a serious problem. And like tobacco, marijuana smoke harms lungs.

It's therefore difficult to justify raising the legal age for cigarettes to match alcohol, while leaving marijuana alone.

I doubt my colleagues want to steer young people toward marijuana, but I fear that's what this law would do. If an 18-year-old wants to smoke something, he'll be able to legally smoke marijuana, as long as he convinces a doctor that he occasionally has trouble sleeping or has some aches and pains. (Who doesn't?)

And as most Californians know, there are plenty of practitioners who grant "medical"

marijuana cards to whoever asks. We're bombarded with advertisements in which marijuana dispensaries guarantee you'll get approved. And once you're approved, you can buy as much as you want. Indeed, 34% of high school seniors who smoke pot get it from someone with a medical marijuana card.

Are there other arguments against raising the tobacco age to 21? Several lawmakers asserted that, at some point, society will need to decide conclusively at what age we'll treat individuals as adults.

An 18-year-old can enlist in the military, serve on a jury that condemns someone to death, and vote for the leader of the free world. It might sound strange to them that we don't trust them with making health decisions.

That's not what motivated my vote against the measure to raise the cigarette purchase age to 21. I think it's most important that we correct the legal anomaly making it easier to obtain marijuana. Until we standardize the rules, we are hypocrites and can't claim we care about the lungs of young people.

Assemblyman Mike Gatto, a Democrat, represents the Los Angeles area in the California Legislature.

Todd Moss

When the White House announced that President Obama would be visiting Cuba, I decided to sneak a peek a couple of weeks ahead. I wanted to see Havana before the Secret Service advance teams descended on the island and the tourist floodgates opened.

I've traveled to 49 countries, including some of the world's poorest and most difficult places, so I expected huge hassles. I was wrong. Going to Cuba is surprisingly easy.

Americans still cannot go there for tourism, but there are now a dozen categories of allowable travel and qualification is self-declared. Your itinerary is supposed to match your purpose, but in practice, there are few checks. I've waited weeks for visas to other countries, but I bought my Cuban visa for \$85, along with a prepaid \$25 departure tax, at the Miami airport when I checked in. It couldn't have been simpler.

ANOTHER WORLD

Scheduled commercial flights are due to start this summer. For now, travelers must fly via charters run by American Airlines from Miami, Jet Blue from New York, or others. On the day I traveled, there were at least five flights from Miami.

Housing was another potential worry. Cuba has some hotels, but luckily the government recently allowed small bed-and-breakfasts to open and for people to rent rooms in their homes. I booked a beautiful light-filled room in a central location for \$50 per night.

Airport immigration and customs were each quick and painless. There was a friendly taxi curbside, and I was off.

Cuba felt like another world. U.S. cellphones don't work, nor do American ATM or credit cards (though that will be changing). It was also jarring to be in a big city and see no Western companies, no chain stores, no fast food.

Havana also immediately felt like a time warp. The classic hulking American cars are everywhere. One of my taxis was a pristine orange-and-white 1956 Chevrolet, the same model my grandfather Lou first bought for my grandmother Betty when they lived in Queens in the 1950s.

Part of Cuba's charm is the throwback atmosphere. Unlike Eastern Europe, where communist propaganda is radical chic nostalgia, it's still very much alive — and serious — in Cuba. Billboards dot the city, extolling the virtues of revolution and hailing Fidel Castro, Che Guevara and Hugo Chávez. Neighborhoods

CUBA'S TRAGIC TIME WARP

Crumbling buildings recall a glorious, vanished past. Is change coming?



TODD MOSS

Once grand Spanish-style homes and neoclassical apartments are falling apart in Vedado, an upscale Havana neighborhood.

still have Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, and children still join the Communist Youth League (slogan: Study, Work, Rifle!). These visuals created an impression of Havana as a cross between 1950s Hollywood and Woody Allen's *Bananas*.

TOTALITARIAN STATE

There are constant reminders that Cuba is a totalitarian state, where the government owns nearly everything. Political dissidents are routinely rounded up, and three-quarters of the population works for the state. The government provides free health care, free education, and subsidized food and other goods. But a medical doctor earns the equivalent of only \$40 a month.

Cuba was once one of the richest countries in the Western hemisphere. Today, Havana is literally crumbling. The tourist center of Old Havana has been beautifully restored. El Capitolio, the national capital building, looks nearly identical to the U.S. Capitol. And the stunning Gran Teatro de La Habana Alicia Alonso, site of Obama's speech Tuesday, was recently refurbished. Yet in the rest of the city, where people work and live, the deterioration is overwhelming.

Walking through Vedado was

like wandering into a long lost city. Blocks of once-grand Spanish-style homes and neoclassical apartments were falling apart. Buildings had rotting walls and collapsed roofs, while power lines drooped like vines. Except Vedado is no deserted city in the middle of the jungle. It's a densely populated upscale residential neighborhood in the heart of the capital. Derelict buildings also stand all along the Malecón, the lively waterfront boulevard that should be the country's most expensive real estate.

I expected Cubans to be ecstatic about Obama's trip, but when I asked, I was mostly met with ambivalence. One person said, "We don't expect much from Obama. Cuba will change eventually. We just don't know when."

I left with the sense that Cuba was on the verge of major transformation. I'll return again in a few months to see firsthand whether the visit of a U.S. president was just one more foreign VIP on a whitewashed tour, or a truly pivotal moment in history.

Todd Moss, a former deputy assistant secretary of State, is chief operating officer of the Center for Global Development. His thriller, Ghosts of Havana, will be published in September.

Obamacare attacks my religious liberty

Loraine Maguire

When I answered God's call to join the Little Sisters of the Poor and vow myself to Him and to the care of the elderly, I never thought that one day I'd be walking up the white marble steps of the Supreme Court. I will be there to attend a legal proceeding on whether the government can force my order to help offer health care services that violate my Catholic faith and that are already available through existing government exchanges.

For the past two years, since the time we felt we had no choice but to engage in this legal process, I have been saddened to see some of the anger and misinformation generated about our case. One of the most misunderstood aspects has arisen from early statements made by the government about how all it was asking was that we sign a form saying we had a religious objection to its mandated services so it could provide these services independent of our health care plan.

This is untrue. The government already knows we object.

In fact, this is not our first appeal for protection from the court. In December 2013, we first asked to be protected from the fines that would accrue against us unless we provided the objectionable services. At the time, Justice Sonia Sotomayor stopped the fines and the government received a letter from us stating our objection. Even before then, since the government announced it had put this regulation into effect, we registered our objection in writing, citing our concerns.

Everyone knows the government can provide free services to

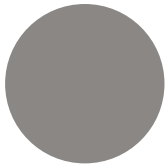
anyone it wishes without our signing a form. It has been clear to us that rather than being an "opt out," the form is an opt-in. It gives the government permission to use our plan to deliver services such as ella, the week-after pill. The form even says our signature will legally alter our contract with our insurance provider.

At the same time the government has been trying to force us to sign this form and provide these services, it has exempted close to 100 million Americans from having to comply with this mandate. It has exempted its own military family plan, its own insurance for the disabled as well as large private corporations such as Pepsi. All these exemptions were issued for convenience or commercial reasons, but when we have asked to be exempted for religious reasons, we have been denied the same privilege.

As I look around the home where I live in Baltimore, I see those who are truly affected by this unnecessary legal proceeding: our 13,000 elderly residents. My heart is filled with grief at the worry and suffering this has caused them. I tell them that whatever happens, God will take care of all of us as He has since the founding of our order 175 years ago. As I walk up the Supreme Court steps on this Holy Wednesday, I will be praying for our elderly residents.

Finally, I will be praying that our laws continue to protect religious liberty, not only for my order but for all Americans.

Mother Loraine Maguire is the Mother Provincial for the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters are represented in court by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.



USA
TODAY

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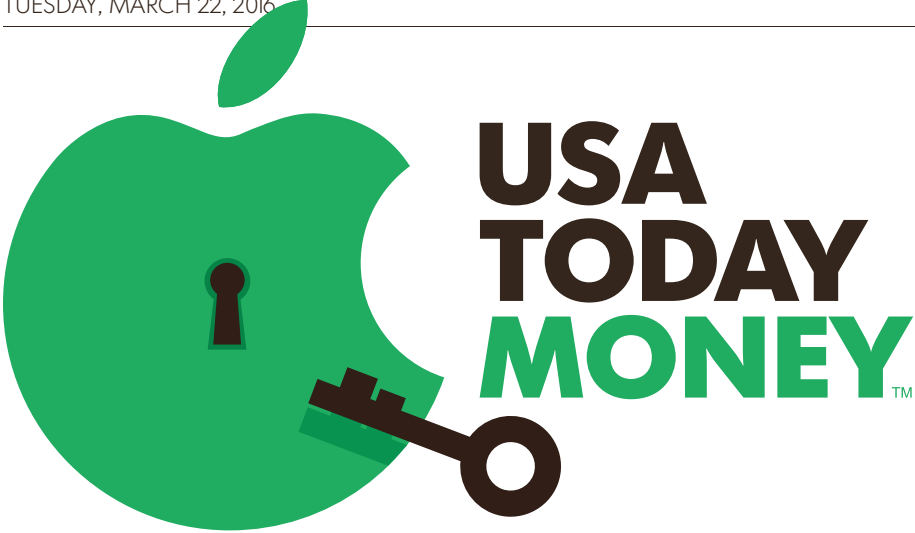
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Allen H. Neuharth,
Founder, Sept. 15, 1982



Who really pays for free trade, 5B

CHINESE CONTAINERS BY GETTY IMAGES



RIEDER: GAWKER'S LOSS COULD BE MORE THAN JUST MONETARY, 2B

POOL

MONEYLINE

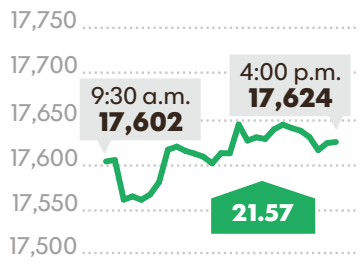
MARKIT, IHS TO MERGE IN TAX INVERSION DEAL

Financial information services firm Markit and analytics company IHS are merging in a deal worth more than \$13 billion. The merger is an apparent inversion deal, where a U.S. company combines with a foreign company and moves its operations overseas, often to avoid higher tax liabilities in the U.S. The new company, named IHS Markit, will be based in London with certain operations out of Englewood, Colo., where IHS currently is headquartered.

CALIF. NEWSPAPER SALE TO DIGITAL MEDIA APPROVED

A court has approved the sale of two California newspapers, 'The Orange County Register' and 'The Press-Enterprise' in Riverside County, to Digital First Media. Freedom Communications, which owns the newspapers, previously had attempted to sell them to Tribune Publishing, which owns the 'Los Angeles Times,' and the 'Chicago Tribune,' but it was blocked by antitrust concerns.

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVG.



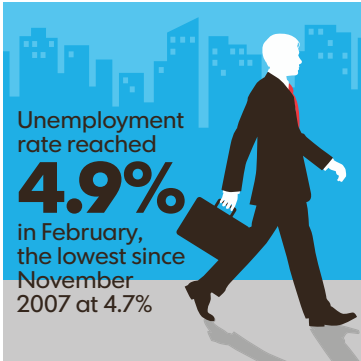
MONDAY MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Nasdaq composite	4808.87	▲ 13.22
S&P 500	2051.60	▲ 2.02
T-note, 10-year yield	1.92%	▲ 0.05
Oil, light sweet crude	\$39.91	▲ 0.47
Euro (dollars per euro)	\$1.1251	▼ 0.0017
Yen per dollar	111.86	▲ 0.26

SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, MARKETWATCH.COM
► USA MARKETS, 4B

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Jobless rate hits pre-recession level



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
JAE YANG AND JANET LOEHKE, USA TODAY



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

If Starwood, which runs brands such as Sheraton, changes its mind again, it would incur a \$450M breakup fee.

SPENCER PLATT, GETTY IMAGES

MARRIOTT WINS LATEST TUG OF WAR FOR STARWOOD

Revised \$13.6B offer keeps China's Anbang at bay — for now

Charisse Jones and Alan Gomez
@charissejones, @alangomez
USA TODAY

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide accepted a sweetened \$13.6 billion offer to merge with Marriott International, creating the largest hotel chain in the world and thwarting Chinese insurer Anbang's latest effort to broaden its lodging portfolio.

Marriott raised its bid for Starwood from \$65.33 a share to \$79.53 a share, greater than Anbang's offer of \$78. Starwood shareholders will receive \$21 cash and 0.8 shares of Marriott Class A common stock for each share of Starwood common stock.

"We're excited to get back on track and get this historic merger together. We think what we can accomplish together is just fabulous," Arne Sorenson, Marriott International's CEO who will helm the newly combined company, told USA TODAY. Sorenson, who is vice chair of President Obama's Export Council, is in Cuba with the president.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts is poised to play a significant role in Cuba, having received authorization from the U.S. Treasury Department to operate existing hotels on the island. Marriott also received the necessary permission from the Treasury Department but hasn't announced any deals. Sorenson said that with the pending deal, the possibilities to



JACK GRUBER, USA TODAY

reshape hospitality in Cuba are even greater. "We are eager to roll up our sleeves and get back to work," he said.

Friday, Starwood dropped a \$12.2 billion bid from Marriott and opted instead for a \$13 billion all-cash offer from Anbang. If Starwood had backed out of the agreement with Marriott, it would have owed its hotel rival \$400 million in cash.

But Anbang shouldn't be counted out quite yet. "It is an asset that means a lot to Anbang and its partners," Baird analyst David Loeb said. Also, "Marriott's bid isn't that much higher ... than Anbang's, and I doubt that Anbang's first bid would be its last."

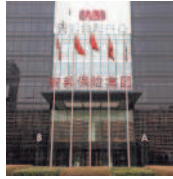
If Starwood, which runs hotel brands such as Westin, Sheraton and Aloft, changes its mind again, it would incur a breakup fee of \$450 million.

Starwood shares closed Friday at \$80.57 and rose 4.5% to finish at \$84.19 on Monday. Marriott's stock fell 1.2% Monday to \$72.30.

Marriott CEO Arne Sorenson says he's ready to get the "historic merger" back on track.

"I think there's broad recognition of what we can accomplish together."

Marriott International CEO Arne Sorenson, on the proposed merger with Starwood



ROLEX DELA PENA, EPA

China's Anbang Insurance Group, which bid \$13 billion for Starwood on Friday, could counter Marriott again.

CEO sees promise in Cuba

Sorenson says Marriott can overcome challenges, 5B

As Pearson departs, Ackman joins embattled Valeant board

Drugmaker accuses former CFO, another executive of 'improper conduct'

Kevin McCoy
@kmcocynyc
USA TODAY

Embattled drugmaker Valeant Pharmaceuticals International said Monday that CEO J. Michael Pearson will step down and billionaire hedge fund manager William Ackman will join the company's board of directors.

The company also said it would restate some of its financial results, a move Valeant said was based in part on "improper conduct" of Howard Schiller, the drugmaker's former chief financial officer, and a second executive. Schiller, who denied the allegations, has not agreed to a request that he leave the company's board, Valeant said.

Trading in the drugmaker's shares, which have lost roughly 87% of their value since August,



CHRIS RATCLIFFE, BLOOMBERG

Bill Ackman's hedge fund holds a 9% stake in Valeant.

was halted before U.S. markets opened. The stock closed up 74% at \$28.98 in regular trading.

The Canada-based company said Pearson, who recently returned following treatment for pneumonia, would stay on as chief executive and a member of the firm's board of directors until a successor is appointed. He had been hailed for Valeant's rapid expansion in recent years through acquisition of other pharmaceutical firms and their medications. But his tenure has been marred by questions and criticism of the

company's since-canceled business dealings with Philidor Rx Services, a specialty pharmacy that had helped distribute some of Valeant's medications.

An October report by Citron Research and its executive editor, activist short-seller Andrew Left, contended that arrangement was designed to create "phantom accounts" as part of a purported "fraud to create invoices to deceive the auditors and book revenue." Valeant denied the allegations and characterized them as an effort to drive down the price of the company's shares.

However, Valeant appointed a special committee to examine the issue. Preliminary results from the review showed that approximately \$58 million in net revenue from sales of Philidor in the second half of 2014 should not have been recognized at the time the medications were delivered to the specialty pharmacy.

The committee's review is con-

► STORY CONTINUES ON 2B

GOING FOR THE GREEN



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GAWKER’S COMEUPPANCE MAY COST MORE THAN JUST \$140M

Rem Rieder
@remrieder
USA TODAY

MEDIA Wilt Chamberlain once said that nobody roots for Goliath. It’s no doubt equally true that nobody roots for Gawker.

So it’s unlikely that there was widespread despair among the populace over a Florida jury’s decision last Friday to award \$115 million in compensatory damages to retired wrestler Hulk Hogan after Gawker.com published a sex tape starring Hogan and the wife of one of his friends. Monday, the jurors tacked on \$25.1 million in punitive damages.

Gawker long has been known for its snarky tone and gratuitously cruel treatment of those in its sights. In a sense it symbolizes the unrestrained nastiness that has been the true dark side of the Internet.

The Florida jury, in hammering Gawker in the invasion of privacy lawsuit, seemed to be saying that there are limits, that enough is enough, that such behavior should have consequences.

Team Gawker certainly didn’t help itself when former editor A.J. Daulerio testified that he would draw the line against publishing celebrity sex tapes only when they involved 4-year-olds or younger tykes. He was presumably kidding, but seriously.

I’m a huge First Amendment guy, although perhaps not so hardcore as late media lawyer Dick Schmidt, who liked to joke that as a lad he had run into a crowded firehouse and yelled, “theater.” But I have to say I don’t see any purpose to posting a sex tape featuring a grappler/reality TV star, even if said tape has been



Gawker owner Nick Denton, above, warns the Hulk Hogan sex tape case could put his enterprise out of business.

“The issue is who gets to make editorial decisions. The First Amendment leaves that, for good or bad, in the hands of journalists. The Framers felt it would be dangerous to put fundamental rights up for the popular vote, and this verdict perfectly illustrates why.”

Media lawyer **Charles Tobin** publicly discussed. Even in the wild and woolly Internet era, shouldn’t there be some boundaries?

That is not to say the verdict isn’t a tad excessive, or several tads. It’s even more than Hogan, whose actual name is Terry G. Bollea, had been seeking in compensatory damages.

Gawker owner Nick Denton has warned that the Hogan case

could put his enterprise out of business. If you’re thinking that doesn’t sound like the end of the world, you are forgiven. But media lawyer Charles Tobin argues such a development is not without unhealthy ramifications.

“Allowing a jury to bankrupt a publisher, over content that the Florida appeals court already held was a matter of legitimate public concern, is extremely dangerous,” he told me. Tobin adds that he’s confident Gawker will prevail on appeal.

That appeal will be forthcoming, Denton says. And it’s hardly unusual for eye-popping jury awards in cases involving alleged media misbehavior to be drastically reduced. So the battle is far from over.

Some media law gurus say that even if the verdict stands, the First Amendment repercussions would not be drastic. Given the narrow nature of the case, the decision “could be bad for the future of sex tapes, but I’m not sure

it would be a threat to anything else,” George Freeman, executive director of the Media Law Resource Center and a former assistant general counsel of the New York Times Company, told *The New York Times*. Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at the University of California-Irvine, told the *Times* he sees no First Amendment right to publish a sex tape.

But Tobin is not so sanguine. “The issue is who gets to make editorial decisions,” he told USA TODAY. “The First Amendment leaves that, for good or bad, in the hands of journalists. The Framers felt it would be dangerous to put fundamental rights up for the popular vote, and this verdict perfectly illustrates why.”

Regardless of what happens next for Gawker, one thing is clear: The freewheeling, vicious heyday of Denton’s bad-boy site is a thing of the past. Last July, already reeling from Hogan’s lawsuit, Gawker came under fire for publishing an article accusing a little-known media company CFO of soliciting sex from a male porn actor, a charge the executive denied. Raising the question: What was the point?

And then something surprising happened: Denton repudiated the story and took it down. He explained that it was time for Gawker to evolve along with Internet culture.

He wrote that the “media environment has changed, our readers have changed, and I have changed. Not only is criticism of yesterday’s piece from readers intense, but much of what they’ve said has resonated. Some of our own writers, proud to work at one of the only independent media companies, are equally appalled.

“I believe this public mood reflects a growing recognition that we all have secrets, and they are not all equally worthy of exposure.”

True that. Let’s hope Denton is right about where Internet mores are heading.

Ackman says Valeant set for rebound

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

tinuing. The examination prevented Valeant from filing its annual report before a March 15 deadline, a slip that raised risk of potential default on the company’s bonds, the drugmaker warned last week. The disclosure caused Valeant shares to lose half their value in a single day.

Additionally, Valeant has acknowledged that its drug pricing and distribution policies are under investigation by federal prosecutors in New York and Massachusetts, the Securities and Exchange Commission and two congressional committees.

“While I regret the controversies that have adversely impacted our business over the past several months, I know that Valeant is a strong and resilient company, and I am committed to doing everything I can to ensure a smooth transition,” Pearson said.

Ackman, whose fund Pershing Square Capital Management hedge fund holds a 9% Valeant stake, will join the board of directors immediately.

While Schiller did not agree to step down, Katherine Stevenson voluntarily resigned from Valeant’s board because the panel’s current maximum size is fixed at 14 members, the company said.

“The improper conduct of the company’s former Chief Financial Officer and former Corporate Controller, which resulted in the provision of incorrect information to the committee and the company’s auditors, contributed to the misstatement of results,” Valeant said.

In response, Schiller issued a statement through his attorneys that said “at no time did I engage in any improper conduct that relates to any restatement of revenue that the company is considering.” The statement also said Schiller did not provide any incorrect information to Valeant’s Audit and Risk Committee or outside auditors.

Ackman predicted the company would rebound from a “challenging time.”



CEO Tim Cook inspects the new 9.7-inch iPad Pro at the Apple offices in Cupertino, Calif. Monday’s unveiling was much quicker than a typical Apple event.

Feds cancel day in court

► CONTINUED FROM 1B

Late Monday, the Department of Justice asked for, and was granted, cancellation of a Tuesday showdown with Apple in a Southern California courtroom. In its request, the DOJ said it would file a status report by April 5 on its progress in unlocking the phone.

The feds’ request, and Apple’s equally adamant refusal to comply, highlight a broader issue of compelling a tech company to provide technological support to extract troves of digital data collected and stored by companies. The implications run so far and deep that a flotilla of tech companies — including Facebook, Google, Twitter, AT&T and others — lined up behind Apple in solidarity.

The U.S. government is supported by law enforcement agencies and the families of victims in the December mass shooting. The showdown is likely to play out in court battles that will hash out free speech in the age of encryption and big data.

In the days of Jobs and first few years of his successor, Cook, Apple was all about the splashy megapress event. Cook’s opening political statement, in contrast, underscored the new tone of social responsibility he has infused in Cupertino. It’s becoming a staple of his public comments — whether in a recent *Time* cover story or during Apple’s shareholders’ meeting last month here.

“We have a responsibility to help you protect your data and protect your privacy. ... We will not shrink from this responsibility.”

Tim Cook

Apple’s March or April launch event is typically more subdued than in September, when it rolls out its big upgrades and new products ahead of the holiday shopping season.

But Monday was more hushed even by those standards. The products showcased were interesting but not earth-shattering. The event was only an hour, possibly one of the shortest Apple events ever. (Apple events usually clock in at two hours.)

“It was a low-key, tactical event, managing well the life cycle of the product portfolio,” said Thomas Husson, vice president and principal analyst at market researcher Forrester. Encryption, a cornerstone of the looming court battle, was not mentioned during the unfurling of the new iPhone SE.

The brevity of Monday’s news wasn’t just clouded by Apple-FBI. Early Monday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Samsung Electronics’ appeal to rulings that the Korean company infringed on design patents in Apple’s popular iPhones. The decision means Samsung might not have to pay Apple \$548 million in damages the companies agreed to late last year.

Apple declined to comment. The company didn’t, however, remain silent about what it thinks about its scrum with the FBI. The music wafting through the auditorium after the event left no doubt — it was Tom Petty’s *I Won’t Back Down*.

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Legendary Intel CEO Andy Grove has died

Silicon Valley power broker ‘made the impossible happen’

Elizabeth Weise
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO Andy Grove, legendary leader of Intel, noted author of business books and a Silicon Valley power broker of the highest degree, died Monday.

Grove, 79, was one of the earliest leaders at Intel, joining in 1969. He became president in 1979 and CEO in 1987 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1997 to 2005.

“We are deeply saddened by the passing of former Intel Chairman and CEO Andy Grove,” said Intel CEO Brian Krzanich. “Andy made the impossible happen, time and again, and inspired gen-

erations of technologists, entrepreneurs, and business leaders.”

Grove was born András István Gróf in Budapest, Hungary, in 1936. He and his mother took on false identities to hide from the Nazis, who invaded their country in 1944 and sent hundreds of thousands of Jews to concentration camps.

In 1956, during the Hungarian Uprising against Soviet control, Grove escaped to the United States.

He studied chemical engineering at the City College of New York, and got his Ph.D at the University of California at Berkeley in 1963.

After graduation, Grove was hired by Gordon Moore at Fairchild Semiconductor, considered one of the companies that created Silicon Valley. There he began as a researcher and became assistant head of research and devel-



Andy Grove, legendary CEO of Intel and a noted technologist. Grove died Monday at the age of 79.

“Andy made the impossible happen, time and again.”

Intel CEO Brian Krzanich

opment under Gordon Moore of Moore’s Law.

When Robert Noyce, nicknamed “the mayor of Silicon Valley,” and Moore left Fairchild to found Intel in 1968, the first employee they hired was Grove.

Grove was the author of a very popular business book, *Only the Paranoid Survive*, in 1999.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eva, two daughters and eight grandchildren.

A cause of death was not given but Grove had suffered from Parkinson’s disease for many years.



Greg Joswiak, VP of iOS, iPad and iPhone marketing, announces the new iPhone SE at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif.

APPLE GOES RETRO WITH \$399 IPHONE SE, SMALLER IPAD PRO

Marco della Cava
@marcodellacava
USA TODAY

CUPERTINO, CALIF. Typically forward-looking Apple is making a bid to extend its product line by taking a cue from its past.

The company unveiled the iPhone SE Monday, which executives described as “the most powerful 4-inch phone ever.”

The phone starts at \$399, or \$17 a month without a service contract. Orders start March 24, and the phone will become available March 31.

The iPhone SE features the same processing power of the flagship 6S, which is double that of the earlier iPhone 5S. It also packs the same graphics capability of the 6S and includes a 12-megapixel iSight camera.

One missing feature: 3D Touch, which iPhone 6S owners use to access different aspects of the mobile-operating system depending on how hard they press on the screen.

Apple allowed reporters at the event to briefly try out the new phone. Physically, it felt nearly identical to the old iPhone 4, with the more defined sides of that earlier phone than later iPhones.

Apple took a similar retro approach for its newest iPad Pro, shrinking the business-focused tablet to a 9.7-inch diagonal size that echoes that of the standard iPad.

The differences include a display that is superior to that of the standard iPad, with increased contrast ratio and a 40% less-reflective screen than an iPad Air 2. It is also 25% brighter. The device will go head to head with Microsoft’s Surface Pro.

Prices for the new iPad Pro are \$599 (32 GB) and \$749 (128 GB). There’s also an \$899 version with a massive 256 GB capacity.

Both the new iPhone and iPad have an improved ability to sense ambient light and reduce screen glare accordingly. Researchers have determined that looking at bright screens late at night can impede deep sleep.

Big or small, iPhone size matters to many



NEW YORK Going small may turn out to be a smart business decision for Apple’s bottom line, but for folks like me — invested in Apple’s phablet-sized phones such as the iPhone 6 Plus — there’s no turning back.

The SE is aimed at the rest: the 30 million people who bought 4-inch iPhones last year or who haven’t yet bought one, plus potential buyers in India, China and other developing markets for whom the lower price makes it more competitive.

And size does matter. I know people who resisted the larger iPhones and rival smartphone makers’ phablets because they thought the handsets were too large.

By unveiling the iPhone SE, the company catches these buyers up with a phone that has most of the latest robust specs

and improved camera capabilities of the more advanced iPhones. That means a superior 12-megapixel camera that’s able to shoot “Live Photos.”

It means speeds that are twice as fast as the iPhone 5s, plus the ability to summon Siri with an out-loud “Hey Siri” command. And it also lets customers exploit Apple Pay, Apple’s mobile payments service.

For the most part, think iPhone 6s in an iPhone 5s body, without features such as 3D Touch.

Indeed, such capabilities will appeal to the buyers who held off on upgrading their iPhones. Apple also made some modest tweaks to iOS, adding passwords to the Notes app and a Night Shift feature that promises to help you sleep better by shifting the color temperature on the screen.

I plan to spend some time with a smaller iPhone to see if I have a new appreciation for a more diminutive form factor.

My guess: My fingers (and eyes) probably won’t be able to make the switch, but there are plenty of others who won’t mind.



An image released by Apple showing the newly unveiled 9.7-inch iPad Pro.

In other product news, Apple announced Siri voice dictation for Apple TV.

Apple seems to have learned a

Features like the A9 processor and its graphic processor, though not the modest storage offering, are high-end for a phone priced in the midrange, he said.

The occasion was not without a nod to Apple’s ongoing battle with the FBI, in which Apple is fighting an order that it provide the agency with code that can break into the iPhone used by a killer in the San Bernardino mass shooting. Apple CEO Tim Cook kicked off the town hall by tackling the issue head on.



Apple CEO Tim Cook announces an update to the Apple Watch. Cook also discussed Apple’s fight with the FBI.

“We need to decide as a nation how much power the government should have over our data and over our privacy,” Cook said. “We did not expect to be in this position, at odds with our own government. But we have a responsibility to help you protect your data and protect your privacy. We owe it to our customers and we owe it to our country. We will not shrink from this responsibility.”

Cook’s message was delivered after a short video introduction that listed a stream of Apple products that have been released since the company was founded. Its 40th anniversary is April 1.

Cook closed the presentation by noting that “this will be the last product event here,” the same theater where the iPod and App Store were unveiled.

Then a drawing of the company’s in-progress headquarters flashed on the screen, a bold and massive circle with an open atrium.

“In 2017, we look forward to welcoming you all there,” he said.

Justices to hear patent battle

Samsung appealing \$548M in damages owed to Apple

Kevin McCoy
USA TODAY

The Apple-Samsung smartphone patent war will rage on.

Stepping into a highly charged legal battle between the smartphone giants, the Supreme Court on Monday agreed to consider Samsung’s appeal of rulings that the Korean company infringed on design patents in U.S. rival Apple’s popular iPhones.

The court said it would limit its review to one of two questions raised by Samsung — whether the maker of the rival Galaxy smartphones was hit with excessive financial penalties after a U.S. jury concluded the company copied some of Apple’s iPhone designs.



Apple accuses Samsung of infringing on design patents for its iPhone.

The Supreme Court action means Samsung might not have to pay Apple the \$548 million in damages the firms agreed to last year following lower court rulings.

Apple declined to comment on the decision. Samsung said, “The court’s review of this case can lead to a fair interpretation of patent law that will support creativity and reward innovation.”

Design patents involve the shape or appearance features corporate owners craft for products. They differ from utility patents, which cover new and useful machines, processes or improvements. In a legal battle that began in 2011, Apple argued Samsung improperly copied some of the iPhone’s look and features. They include the round-cornered front face and colorful grid of icons. A California federal jury agreed, and a Washington, D.C., appeals court upheld much of the verdict and damages award last May.

However, Samsung argued the rulings improperly allowed the jury “to find infringement based merely on similarities in ‘overall appearance’ and indeed based on ‘any perceived similarities or differences’ whatsoever.” Samsung also contended the lower courts compounded the problem by awarding Samsung’s full profits from sales of smartphones that contain the patented designs.

Google, Facebook and other tech firms backed Samsung’s contentions in friend-of-the-court legal briefs. They contended that decades-old U.S. patent laws are not equipped to provide the proper legal framework for decisions on modern technology in smartphones and other products.

AMERICA'S MARKETS

ALL THE MARKET ACTION IN REAL TIME.
AMERICASMARKETS.USATODAY.COM

What to watch

Next hurdle for stocks: Take out previous highs

Adam Shell
@adamshell
USA TODAY

The broad U.S. stock market is back in the black for the year, erasing its sizable losses in what had been its worst start to a year — ever.

But for the bull to get a second lease on life, the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has to do more than just stay in the plus column for 2016. In short, it has to take out its previous record closing high of 2,130.82 from May 2015. If it does that the bull market will be back on and the correction that kicked off the year will end as just that, and not a bear market, or drop of 20% or more from a peak.

Until the bull reasserts itself and tallies another record, the current rebound rally will be

viewed as nothing more than a counter-trend rally in a down market.

But if the bull can notch a fresh record, it would cement its position as only the third bull market in history to last seven years. If it can close at another peak and also not suffer a 20% drop between now and the end of April, the 84-month old bull will supplant the 85.6-month-old bull that ended in August 1956 as the second longest in history.

So, there's a lot at stake for stock investors. Another high would confirm the rebound rally is for real. It would also mark a new starting point in which future corrections (or drops of 10% or more) and bear markets are measured. But if the bull stumbles, the market narrative will quickly shift from rebound and resilience to a tired bull still stuck in a new downtrend.

DID YOU KNOW?

Facts about America's investors who use SigFig tracking services:



SigFig investors in Michigan are 1.9 times more likely than the average investor to be invested in **auto companies**.

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More than half a million investors nationwide with total assets of \$200 billion manage their investment portfolios online with SigFig investment tracking service. Data on this page are based on SigFig analysis.

How we're performing

USA's portfolio allocation for tech stocks

Here's how America's individual investors are performing based on data from SigFig online investment tracking service:

CONSERVATIVE Less than 30% equities	BALANCED 30%-50% equities	AGGRESSIVE 71% or more in equities
5-day avg.: -1.82	5-day avg.: -1.68	5-day avg.: -2.09
6-month avg.: -5.23	6-month avg.: -7.82	6-month avg.: -11.52
Largest holding: AAPL	Largest holding: AAPL	Largest holding: MSFT
Most bought: NFLX	Most bought: AAPL	Most bought: AAPL
Most sold: NFLX	Most sold: AAPL	Most sold: AAPL

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MAJOR INDEXES

DJIA +21.57	DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE	SPX +2.02	S&P 500 STANDARD & POOR'S
CHANGE: +1.1%	CLOSE: 17,623.87	CHANGE: +1.1%	CLOSE: 2,051.60
YTD: +198.84	PREV. CLOSE: 17,602.30	YTD: +7.66	PREV. CLOSE: 2,049.58
YTD % CHG: +1.1%	RANGE: 17,551.38-17,644.97	YTD % CHG: +4.4%	RANGE: 2,043.14-2,053.91
COMP +13.22	NASDAQ COMPOSITE	RUT -3.09	RUSSELL RUSSELL 2000 INDEX
CHANGE: +3.3%	CLOSE: 4,808.87	CHANGE: -3.3%	CLOSE: 1,098.58
YTD: -198.54	PREV. CLOSE: 4,795.65	YTD: -37.31	PREV. CLOSE: 1,101.67
YTD % CHG: -4.0%	RANGE: 4,785.38-4,814.85	YTD % CHG: -3.3%	RANGE: 1,096.15-1,103.62

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS/LOSERS

GAINERS	Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	Mallinckrodt (MNK) Recent pullback seen as buying opportunity.	58.96	+4.34	+7.9	-21.0
	Starwood Hotels & Resorts (HOT) Marriott tops Anbang bid with \$13.6 billion offer.	84.19	+3.62	+4.5	+21.5
	PayPal Holdings (PYPL) Shares jump after analyst upgrade.	41.14	+1.73	+4.4	+13.6
	Micron Technology (MU) Shakes off downgrade and climbs.	11.53	+3.39	+3.5	-18.6
	Illumina (ILMN) Still growing at double-digit rate.	155.13	+4.89	+3.3	-19.2
	Flir Systems (FLIR) Gets contracts of \$38 million.	33.36	+9.0	+2.8	+18.8
	Gilead Sciences (GILD) Hepatitis C drug prescriptions show consistent increase.	92.67	+2.40	+2.7	-8.4
	Nike (NKE) Gains ahead of earnings; Under Armour designer joins.	64.72	+1.73	+2.7	+3.6
	PVH (PVH) Rises as investors anticipate quarterly results.	90.57	+2.29	+2.6	+23.0
	Celgene (CELG) Seen cheap, shares up.	101.14	+2.38	+2.4	-15.5
LOSERS	Company (ticker symbol)	Price	\$ Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
	Sherwin-Williams (SHW) Valspar deal raises antitrust concerns.	273.29	-15.40	-5.3	+5.3
	Wyndham Worldwide (WYN) Retreats from 2016 high after fund manager sale.	77.07	-3.72	-4.6	+6.1
	Williams Companies (WMB) Evens March as fund manager sells.	17.35	-.80	-4.4	-32.5
	Cabot Oil & Gas (COG) Dips as it repeats annual spending/production forecast.	21.79	-.98	-4.3	+23.2
	EQT (EQT) Loses momentum in trailing sector.	63.33	-2.41	-3.7	+21.5
	OneOK (OKE) Magnum Hunter seeks to reject contract.	29.69	-1.13	-3.7	+20.4
	Endo International (ENDP) Shares dip ahead of FDA approval on generic alternative.	28.84	-1.00	-3.4	-52.9
	Staples (SPLS) Fights in court to save Office Depot takeover.	9.69	-.31	-3.1	+2.3
	Range Resources (RRC) Stock rating cut to neutral at Macquarie.	32.93	-1.02	-3.0	+33.8
	Transocean (RIG) Price target lowered, sector's weak.	10.53	-.25	-2.3	-14.9

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STORY STOCKS

Valeant Pharmaceuticals
The troubled drugmaker said its CEO is stepping down and activist hedge fund manager Bill Ackman would join its board of directors.

Price: \$28.98
Chg: \$2.00
% chg: 7.4%
Day's high/low: \$31.59/\$25.99

Starwood Hotels and Resorts
Marriott sweetened its bid for the hotel chain to \$13.6 billion, topping a \$13.2 billion offer made last week by a group of Chinese investors.

Price: \$84.19
Chg: \$3.62
% chg: 4.5%
Day's high/low: \$84.37/\$83.46

Sherwin-Williams
The paint manufacturer said it will buy rival Valspar for more than \$11 billion, or about \$113 a share. The companies said no divestitures are expected to get the deal to clear antitrust hurdles.

Price: \$273.29
Chg: -\$15.40
% chg: -5.3%
Day's high/low: \$288.29/\$270.54

TOP 10 MUTUAL FUNDS				
Fund, ranked by size	NAV	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Vanguard 500Adml	189.14	+0.18	+7.2%	+0.9%
Vanguard TotStAdm	50.73	+0.04	+7.6%	+0.3%
Vanguard Instldxl	187.28	+0.18	+7.2%	+0.9%
Vanguard TotStldx	50.72	+0.04	+7.6%	+0.3%
Vanguard InstPlus	187.29	+0.19	+7.2%	+0.9%
Vanguard TotIntl	14.41	-0.03	+8.0%	-0.2%
Fidelity Contra	95.92	+0.17	+6.0%	-2.3%
American Funds IncAmerA m	20.57	-0.02	+5.5%	+2.5%
American Funds GrthAmA m	39.94	+0.04	+6.7%	-3.3%
American Funds CapIncBuA m	57.26	-0.08	+5.2%	+3.4%

1 - CAPITAL GAINS AND DIVIDENDS REINVESTED

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS				
ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	204.67	+0.29	+0.1%
Barric Path Vix ST	VXX	18.80	-0.55	-2.8%
CS Vix 2x Vix ShTm	TVIX	4.98	-0.47	-8.6%
iShares Emerg Mkts	EEM	34.10	+0.07	+0.2%
Dir Div Gold Bear3x	DUST	3.14	unch.	unch.
SPDR Financial	XLF	22.69	-0.04	-0.2%
Mkt Vect Gold Miners	GDV	20.57	-0.04	-0.2%
US Oil Fund LP	USO	10.59	+0.11	+1.0%
iShares Rus 2000	IWM	109.35	-0.26	-0.2%
ProShs Ultra VIX ST	UVXY	22.15	-1.35	-5.7%

INTEREST RATES				
Type	Close	6 mo ago		
Prime lending	3.50%	3.25%		
Federal funds	0.37%	0.14%		
3 mo. T-bill	0.29%	0.01%		
5 yr. T-note	1.38%	1.49%		
10 yr. T-note	1.92%	2.20%		

MORTGAGE RATES				
Type	Close	6 mo ago		
30 yr. fixed	3.70%	3.79%		
15 yr. fixed	2.81%	2.93%		
1 yr. ARM	2.78%	2.66%		
5/1 ARM	3.19%	3.12%		

SOURCE: BANKRATE.COM

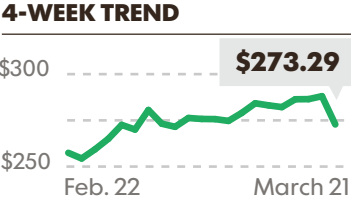
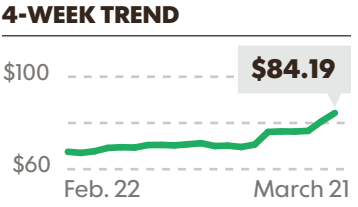
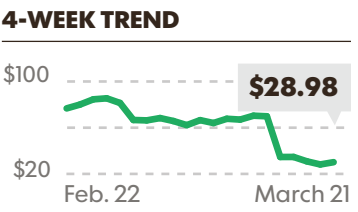
COMMODITIES				
Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.
Cattle (lb.)	1.38	1.40	-0.02	-1.1%
Corn (bushel)	3.70	3.67	+0.03	+0.7%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,243.80	1,253.80	-10.00	-0.8%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.69	.71	-0.02	-2.9%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	1.83	1.91	-0.08	-4.1%
Oil, heating (gal.)	1.24	1.24	unch.	unch.
Oil, lt. swt. crude (bar.)	39.91	39.44	+0.47	+1.2%
Silver (troy oz.)	15.84	15.81	+0.03	+0.2%
Soybeans (bushel)	9.02	8.98	+0.04	+0.5%
Wheat (bushel)	4.67	4.63	+0.04	+0.8%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES				
Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.6948	.6906	.6451	.6693
Canadian dollar	1.3068	1.3029	1.3220	1.2578
Chinese yuan	6.4835	6.4743	6.3648	6.2061
Euro	.8888	.8874	.8935	.9250
Japanese yen	111.86	111.60	120.60	120.17
Mexican peso	17.3930	17.3430	16.6645	15.0539

FOREIGN MARKETS				
Country	Close	Prev.	Change	%Chg.
Frankfurt	9,948.64	9,950.80	-2.16	unch.
Hong Kong	20,684.15	20,671.63	+12.52	+0.1%
Japan (Nikkei)	16,724.81	16,936.38	-211.57	-1.3%
London	6,184.58	6,189.64	-5.06	-0.1%
Mexico City	45,482.39	45,482.39	unch.	unch.

SOURCES: MORNINGSTAR, DOW JONES INDEXES, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN-DEPTH MARKETS COVERAGE
USATODAY.COM/MONEY



INVESTING ASK MATT

Weaving in, out can be difficult — but profitable

Q: When should investors panic?



Matt Krantz
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USA TODAY

A: Investors are told to stay calm during volatility. But panic can be profitable, according to new research.

Alan Moreira and Tyler Muir, professors of finance at the Yale School of Management, say panicking and selling when market volatility picks up can boost success. Stocks' returns aren't large enough to justify the risk investors are taking during volatility, they say.

Investors get better risk-adjusted returns shifting to bonds and out of stocks when volatility is high and shifting back when it's low. When stocks get clobbered they tend to stay depressed for a long time. But volatility tends to be over quickly. Investors can duck out of the market during periods of high volatility and have plenty of time to get back in, the professors say.

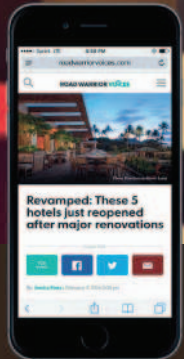
Real-life evidence, though, has shown how difficult it is to weave in and out of stocks. Famed investor Warren Buffett has a long-term record of gnoring short-term swings and remaining invested.

Again last year, two-thirds of active managers who tried to beat the market wound up lagging it, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices. Investors who panicked and sold stocks this February after the market dropped 10% on the year may have locked in losses if they didn't get back in. That's a shame as the market has since recovered nearly all its losses.

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Marriott CEO sees plenty of promise in Cuba

Sorenson says island has challenges, needs infusion of capital

Alan Gomez
@alangomez
USA TODAY

HAVANA When Marriott CEO Arne Sorenson walks around the streets of this Cuban capital, he sees a place in desperate need of an infusion of foreign capital and foreign assistance. Figuring out how to get those dollars down here, however, isn't so easy.

Sitting in a hotel a block away from the capitol building and wearing a guayabera — a fashion staple on this Caribbean island — Sorenson said joint ventures to manage existing Cuban hotels like the one reached by Starwood Hotels and Resorts are the first steps. But when he looks to the future, one he hopes includes Starwood after the two sides reached a new merger agreement

Monday, the goal is to build and operate their own facilities.

The difficulty comes in navigating Cuba's arcane foreign investment laws, which limit the ownership stake foreign companies can get and requires them to hire workers approved by the government.

"This is one of the riddles. How do you attract foreign capital to Cuba in the context of a socialist economy which has very different rules than typically work for industry?" he said. "That's the path (the Cuban government has) to navigate. It's obvious that that new capital won't come in unless the rules are set up in a way that allows that capital to get a return. If those things can be done, the capital will come in."

Sorenson is visiting Cuba as part of President Obama's historic trip to the island, the first for a sitting U.S. president in nearly 90 years. Sorenson is traveling as part of the president's Export Council, which means he will join a summit on entrepreneurship



ROBERT HANASHIRO, USA TODAY
Arne Sorenson says Americans have a renewed fascination with Cuba.

on Monday and a state dinner with Cuban President Raúl Castro later that night. But he's also meeting with Cuban officials in the hotel industry to continue figuring out how Marriott can expand on the island in the future.

One of the biggest hurdles he sees is the restriction on hiring. The Cuban government typically

negotiates with foreign companies and designates people who can be hired by them. The companies then pay the Cuban government directly, and the government pays those workers a typical Cuban salary — about \$25 a month — and keeps the rest.

Sorenson said the White House is addressing that issue with the Cuban government but says he's limited in how far he can echo those concerns.

"To some extent, it would be presumptuous of us, for a single company, to come down and say, 'We must make demands that you change your approach,'" he said. "But I do think we can have conversations with them and say, 'Let's explore how we can evolve this process to make sure these great jobs get created.'"

One potential roadblock — a lack of Internet access — may be disappearing. In an interview that aired Monday, President Obama told ABC News anchor David Muir that more Cubans may soon have an easier time hopping on

the Web.

"One of the things that we will be announcing here is that Google has a deal to start setting up more Wi-Fi access, broadband access on the island," Obama said.

Still, Sorenson said the inability to own properties outright will also limit the interest, and willingness, of any company to dive into the Cuban market. When Fidel Castro swept to power in 1959, he quickly started nationalizing foreign companies. The U.S. Department of Justice has certified 5,913 claims of property owned by U.S. citizens and companies being confiscated by the Cuban government, estimated to be worth about \$7 billion today.

Sorenson said the result is a system in which foreign companies that strive for predictability and stability would be forced to enter a deal in which they're tied to the whims of an unpredictable government.

Despite those difficulties, Sorenson said he's optimistic about his chain's future in Cuba.



KENA BETANCUR, AFP/GETTY IMAGES
GOP front-runner Donald Trump, above, says current U.S. trade deals are disasters, calling them bad deals for Americans.

Trump, Sanders revive national debate over who does, doesn't benefit

Roger Yu
@RogerYu
USA TODAY

In 1992, independent presidential candidate Ross Perot predicted the North American Free Trade Agreement would produce a "giant sucking sound" of U.S. jobs fleeing to low-wage Mexico.

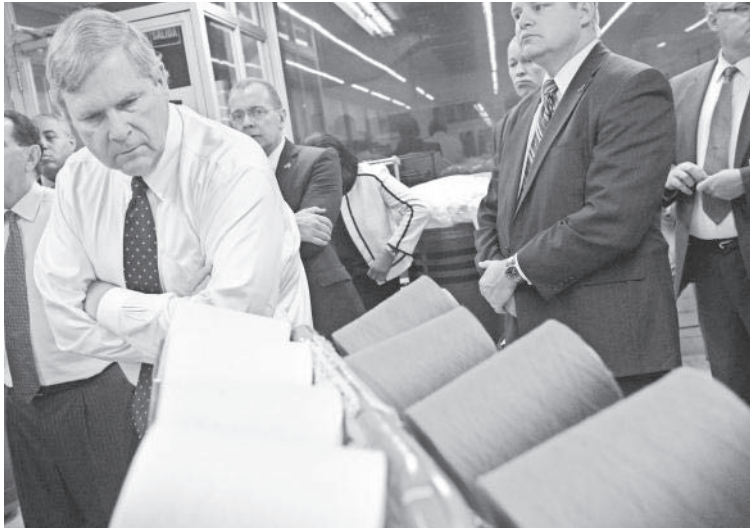
A quarter-century later, another billionaire businessman, Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump, is picking up where Perot left off by bashing NAFTA and other trade agreements as bad deals for America and its workers. "I think NAFTA has been a disaster. I think our current deals are a disaster," Trump told CNN last year.

Recently, he has been joined by Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, whose message resonates in states such as Michigan that have lost manufacturing jobs to foreign trading partners ranging from Mexico to China. "Our disastrous trade policies for the past 30 or 40 years have had a horrendous impact on the lives of millions of working Americans," Sanders tweeted March 16.

The Economic Policy Institute, a liberal think tank partly funded by unions, estimated more than 850,000 jobs have been lost due to NAFTA since the agreement was enacted in 1994. During that time, the U.S. trade deficit with Mexico swung from a \$1.7 billion U.S. surplus in 1993 to a \$61.4 billion deficit in 2012, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

A fair assessment of the impact of free trade requires more than counting the number of lost U.S. jobs, economists say. Opening U.S. borders to imports also lowers prices for consumers and creates jobs for Americans who distribute or sell imports. Trade also fuels economic growth in developing nations, which increases demand for U.S. exports and creates new manufacturing and service jobs in the United States.

Mauro Guillen, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, doesn't dispute the validity of 850,000 jobs lost because of NAFTA, but said they likely would have disappeared even without that deal. "They



CRIS BOURONCLE, AFP/GETTY IMAGES
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, left, visits the Creditex textile factory, a clothing maker, in Lima, Peru, on March 15.

"Free trade is a beautiful thing for consumers. The problem, of course, is people aren't just consumers. They need to work and make a living."

would have gone somewhere else. Auto, textiles, toys, consumer electronics, auto parts — they're also made in Asia."

Adds Robert Scott, EPI's director of trade and manufacturing policy: "The most important element of trade is who wins and loses. Exports support domestic jobs. Imports displace jobs."

Trade agreement impacts:

LOSSES

► **Trade deficit with China:** Normal trade relations with China signed by President Clinton in 2000 and China's membership in the World Trade Organization in 2001 fueled the Asian country's emergence as a powerhouse exporter of manufactured goods. As a result, the U.S. trade deficit with China has grown to \$365.7 billion in 2015 from \$83.8 billion in 2000. About 3.5 million jobs were lost due to the trade deficit with China, EPI's Scott said.

► **Job loss ripple effect:** As manufacturing jobs fade, so do service jobs that support them, such as accounting and legal services, Scott said. "Those services used to be counted as manufacturing jobs," he said. "The truth is, each manufacturing job supports two additional jobs in the economy." In all, about 70,000 factories have closed and 5 million jobs were lost in manufacturing since 2000 because of trade with Europe, China and other countries now part of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, an agreement among 12 Pacific Rim countries awaiting congressional approval, Scott said.

► **Lower wages:** Expanded trade has suppressed wages, said Josh Bivens, EPI's research and policy director. Annual wages for full-time U.S. workers without a four-year degree fell about \$1,800 in 2011 because of free trade, Bivens wrote in January 2015.

GAINS

► **Lower-priced goods:** Imports help to keep prices low, a benefit as wages rise slowly. Middle-class consumers gain "an estimated 29% of their purchasing power from trade," according to the Council of Economic Advisers. "This is especially important for middle-class consumers who spend a larger share of their disposable income on heavily traded food and clothing items."

► **More export-created jobs:** U.S. companies need more designers and R&D engineers as demand for their products grows in foreign markets. In turn, their suppliers hire more workers. American companies benefit from heightened competition from foreign players in their sectors. About one in four manufacturing jobs are supported by exports, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. And exports supported 6.2 million jobs in 2013, it said.

In 2014, U.S. manufacturing exports reached a record \$1.4 trillion, and all exports rose by nearly 50% from 2009 to 2014, the Obama administration said.

► **Higher foreign demand:** Raising living standards of trading partners means foreign consumers gain buying power to purchase U.S. goods and services, and they spend more when they travel, as evidenced by Chinese tourists flocking to the USA. "The U.S. as a country that's promoting free trade is a good thing," Guillen said. He said European, Japanese and Korean companies have moved manufacturing facilities to Mexico to be closer to their most important customer, the U.S.

More than 500,000 American jobs "are supported by imports of clothes and toys from China alone," according to policy analysts Bryan Riley and Anthony Kim of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

► **Less Mexican immigration:** NAFTA's role in boosting the Mexican economy has benefited the U.S. by reversing the flood of Mexicans streaming across the border. Mexicans can find more good-paying jobs at home, such as in the auto industry, which has overtaken Japan in the number of vehicles exported to the U.S. By 2020, Mexico will account for about a quarter of all auto vehicles produced in North America, according to IHS Automotive. "In the last couple of years, immigration by Mexicans (to the U.S.) has been negative," Guillen said, noting the number of Mexicans returning home now exceeds those entering the U.S. "NAFTA has been successful in helping Mexico develop enough to slow that down."

Chinese companies snatching up U.S. firms at hot pace

'It will be a record year' for acquisitions, S&P Global asserts

Matt Krantz
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USA TODAY

China is looking to buy American at a never-before-seen clip. Starwood Hotels & Resorts is just the biggest and latest target.

Chinese investors and buyers have announced plans to spend \$39 billion so far this year buying U.S. companies, says Richard Peterson, senior director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. This whopping total includes Anbang Insurance Group's offer last week for hotel chain Starwood Hotels & Resorts, which S&P Global says is valued at \$15.2 billion. (Marriott International countered Monday with a higher offer.)

The pace of Chinese buying of U.S. companies is unprecedented, Peterson says. The value of Chinese bids for U.S. companies just this year is roughly four times the \$9.4 billion of Sino-U.S. deals announced last year and already well above the previous record of \$11.8 billion for Chinese companies that announced spending in 2013. That was the year China's Henan Shineway Industry Group agreed to buy food processor Smithfield Foods for \$7.3 billion.

"The deal flow is self-explanatory," Peterson says. "It will be a record year for Chinese acquisitions of companies based in the U.S."

China's shopping spree in the U.S. is starting to get harder to ignore. Five of the six largest Chinese buyouts of U.S. companies occurred this year, Peterson says. Ingram Micro, a U.S.-based company that distributes electronics made by companies ranging from Apple to Microsoft, was bought in February by China's Tianjin Tianhai for \$7.3 billion.

Then there was China's Qingdao Haier's \$5.4 billion buy of General Electric's GE Appliances unit in January.

CHINESE BUYERS		
Largest investments in U.S. companies involving Chinese buyers (including announced and completed deals):		
Target	Value (in millions)	Buyer
Starwood Hotels	\$15,188	Anbang Insurance
Smithfield Foods	\$7,276	Henan Shineway Industry
Ingram Micro	\$7,247	Tianjin Tianhai Investment
GE Appliances	\$5,400	Qingdao Haier
Terex	\$5,122	Zoomlion Heavy Industry
Legend Pictures	\$3,500	Dalian Wanda
AMC Entertainment	\$2,909	Dalian Wanda
Fairchild Semiconductor	\$2,659	China Resources (Holdings) Co.
Devon Energy (5 U.S. shale oil and gas fields)	\$2,442	Sinopec Int'l Petroleum
Activision Blizzard (stake bought by group of investors)	\$2,339	Tencent Holdings*
Waldorf Astoria New York	\$1,950	Anbang Insurance
NOTE: TENCENT HOLDING WAS ONE OF SEVERAL INVESTORS, INCLUDING LOS ANGELES-BASED LEONARD GREEN		
SOURCE: S&P GLOBAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE		



USA TODAY SPORTS™

No. 2 ousted

Kelsey Plum's 32 points lift Washington past second-seeded Maryland and into Sweet 16, 2C



PLUM, TOP, BY PATRICK SEMANSKY, AP

Equality issues

Why are we still having a debate about equal prize money in tennis? Nancy Armour, 3C

SPORTSLINE



KRAFT BY MARK J. REBILAS, USA TODAY SPORTS

FIRST WORD
IT'S VERY HARD TO COMPETE WITHOUT THE LIFEblood OF THE DRAFT. AND SO WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE, AND I ASSURE WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING WE CAN DO THAT HAS A CHANCE OF SUCCESS."

Patriots owner Robert Kraft, saying he wrote a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in laying out his case for the reinstatement of the team's first-round pick that was taken as part of Deflategate.



MARK D. SMITH, USA TODAY SPORTS

TWEET OF THE DAY
@kurt13warner
My heart hurts 4 my guys @UNlmbb ... I've been there & no words to ease pain - but a great group of guys who showed the world who they are!
Retired NFL quarterback Kurt Warner, whose alma mater Northern Iowa fell in two over-times to Texas A&M in the second round of the NCAA West Region.



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ, GETTY IMAGES

ALMOST LAST WORD
"AS I'VE SAID FROM THE START, MY JOB IS TO ENFORCE THE LAW, AND STARTING TODAY DRAFTKINGS AND FANDUEL WILL ABIDE BY IT. TODAY'S AGREEMENT ALSO CREATES AN EXPEDITED PATH TO RESOLVE THIS LITIGATION SHOULD THAT LAW CHANGE OR UPON A DECISION BY THE APPELLATE DIVISION."

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, announcing he agreed to drop all claims against DraftKings and FanDuel except for false advertising in exchange for the daily fantasy game sites halting paid contests in the state.

LAST WORD
"THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS DEAL FOR THE DAILY FANTASY SITES IS THAT THEY WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A DOOMSDAY SCENARIO."

Daniel Wallach, a sports and gambling attorney and partner in the firm Becker & Poliackoff.

Edited by USA TODAY Sports staff

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Winners' reward



Note The coed tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., begins Wednesday
Source Miami Open
ELLEN J. HORROW AND JANET LOEHKE, USA TODAY

LITTLE ROOM LEFT FOR BIG MEN IN NBA



SOOBUM IM, USA TODAY SPORTS

Dwight Howard, right, is averaging 8.8 shot attempts per game this season, an 11-year low.

Dominant centers on decline with 'small ball' focus

Sam Amick
@sam_amick
USA TODAY Sports

HOUSTON If a picture is truly worth a thousand words, then the cellphone shots Dwight Howard took with adoring Houston Rockets fans at Rudy's Country Store & BBQ last week might have been a tad deceiving.

Howard, who stopped into one of his favorite spots on the

28-mile drive from the team's Toyota Center arena to his palatial home in the suburb of Richmond, flashed that Texas-sized smile in between bites for each supporter who came in search of a selfie. That he was getting fed for once surely helped his jovial mood considering, well, it doesn't happen much for big men the likes of him these days.

"The way the (NBA) game is played (now), it's all outside-in, it's threes, it's super-fast," How-

ard told USA TODAY Sports. "It's really like we're dinosaurs and they're trying to extinct us. But the Ice Age will not come, and we will not be extinct.

"You watch a guy like Shaq (O'Neal) or Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar) and all these guys, and I don't know if they would want to just play with guys shooting threes and stuff like that. They want to be fed, but it's the evolution of the game. And the way

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 6C**

Making decision on NBA easier

Nicole Auerbach
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USA TODAY Sports

In the least surprising news of the week, Ben Simmons has declared for the NBA. He almost certainly will be drafted No. 1 or 2 in June's draft.

But for most of the NCAA underclassmen who will consider going pro in the coming weeks, there is far greater uncertainty. There always has been; each year, news outlets make lists of the talented players who end up going undrafted as an example of poor decision-making and the intoxicating allure of the NBA giving way to the reality of playing in the Development League or overseas.

To those deeply invested in the sport of college basketball, many of those disappointments — or gaps between players' dreams and reality — could have been avoided. And can be avoided, as long as those players get better information about their actual draft stock.

That was the thinking behind a new predraft process proposed jointly by coaches and representatives of the NCAA, National Association of Basketball Coaches and NBA. It will take effect this spring.

Essentially, it pushes back the deadline for underclassmen to decide if they want to return to college to 10 days after the predraft combine, giving them another five-plus weeks to get feedback directly from NBA personnel regarding their pro prospects. There also is a cap on how many players will be invited to the combine, which should weed out players whose high expectations for themselves do not match the NBA's at that time.

There could still be at least a dozen players invited to the com-

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 4C**



ROBERT DEUTSCH, USA TODAY SPORTS

Jay Wright: "You're going to see a lot better decisions."

MLB, Cuba seeking common ground

Embargo impedes possible deal on player transfers

Jorge L. Ortiz
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USA TODAY Sports

HAVANA Perhaps buoyed by the goodwill Major League Baseball has engendered in its return to Cuba, Commissioner Rob Manfred is confident a new system to govern the transfer of Cuban players can be in place by the end of the year.

Cuban baseball officials, while grateful for the visit, insistently point to the five-decades-old economic embargo as a major roadblock.

The first day of this unique trip — an unprecedented combination of an MLB team and the sitting U.S. president traveling here



WILL VRAGOVIC, AP

Rays catcher Rene Rivera uses his cellphone to take a photo at Estadio Latinoamericano in Havana on Monday.

at the same time — evoked repeated nods to baseball's ability to bring cultures together.

MLB came in with some of its most distinguished ambassadors in New York Yankees icon Derek

Jeter and Hall of Fame manager Joe Torre, along with former Cuban players Luis Tiant and Jose Cardenal. The last three attended a clinic for 9- and 10-year-olds at a field across from Plaza de la Re-

volucion, with Tampa Bay Rays coaches sharing tips on hitting, fielding and pitching.

Jeter, making his first trip to the island, echoed Torre's words in saying, "There's so many differences between the countries, whether it's location, language, political views, but the one thing that's a common thread is we speak the same language of baseball."

And yet, they sent contrasting messages Monday in addressing a key issue in their relationship.

Paving the way for a new system that would allow Cuban players to offer their services to U.S. teams without abandoning their country is one of MLB's goals during this visit.

The trip, set in motion after President Obama announced a normalizing of relations between the countries in December 2014, will culminate with Tuesday's

► **STORY CONTINUES ON 6C**

Tennis firestorm shows fight for equality is far from over

Novak Djokovic got one thing right: Female athletes do have to go through a lot of different things their male counterparts do not.

Like people who ought to know better diminishing their accomplishments and dismissing their contributions to the sport. Like the public and people in positions of power treating them as commodities, their importance determined not by their ability but by their appearance.

Like having to fight the same tired battle over and over and over again.

Djokovic's remarks Sunday that male tennis players deserve more prize money was equally if not more disheartening than Indian Wells CEO Raymond Moore's ridiculous comments about "lady players" riding the coattails of men. These were arguments that were supposed to have been settled long ago, beliefs about women's inferiority and subservience a relic from the era of wooden rackets and cat gut.

Yet 40-plus years after Title IX, they're being resurrected. At a time when Serena Williams is one of the most dominant and recognizable faces in sports, no less. Not just tennis, but in all sports.

"Our sport has always tried to lead and do the right thing. For the most part, we continue to do that," said Ilana Kloss, CEO and commissioner of Mylan World TeamTennis and a past Women's Tennis Association board member.

"There will continue to be moments that are defining, that remind people and wake people

Nancy Armour

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USA TODAY Sports



up," Kloss added. "I think this is one of those moments."

Let's dispatch with the "equal pay" argument right away. Yes, the men play best-of-five sets in the Grand Slam tournaments while the women play best-of-three. In most other events, however, it's best-of-three for both.

The irony wasn't lost on anyone that Djokovic's comments came after he beat Milos Raonic in two sets — the same number it took Victoria Azarenka to beat Williams. Djokovic actually worked less, in fact, routing Raonic 6-2, 6-0, while Azarenka needed six more games to dispatch Williams 6-4, 6-4.

As for the Slams, organizers have recognized that equal pay is the only answer when time of play varies wildly. Should Roger Federer earn more if he goes five sets while Rafael Nadal needs only three? What if Caroline Wozniacki needs 90 minutes for a two-set match and Djokovic races through his three-setter in 75?

And what would you have done with the 2005 Wimbledon finals, where it took Venus Williams 45 minutes longer to win her title than Federer needed to claim his?

Djokovic said the men should get more because their events draw better. Yet the women's final at last year's U.S. Open sold out before the men's. The all-Williams quarterfinal drew a 3.7 rat-



JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA, USA TODAY SPORTS

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic suggested men should get more prize money than women's players.

ing on ESPN, compared with 1.8 for the men's final between Federer and Djokovic.

In a sport in which the women's game is as big a draw as the

men's and the women train just as hard and for just as long, equity is the only answer.

But the larger, more troubling issue is that of the value and re-

spect afforded to female athletes. Women in general, really.

The passage of Title IX in 1972 opened any number of doors to girls and women. Playing sports is now a rite of passage for girls, rather than something they have to fight for. The number of women pursuing math and science fields continues to grow. A coffee cart is no longer our entrée to the boardroom.

There is a difference between opportunity and equality, however, and it's in the latter where we still lag. Men continue to earn more and have an easier time being promoted. They are taken more seriously than their female counterparts even when their qualifications are the same.

"There will continue to be moments that ... wake people up (about inequality)."

Ilana Kloss, CEO and commissioner of Mylan World TeamTennis

They are showcased based on their talent and ability, not how good they'll look in a swimsuit or a short dress and heels.

"That is such a disservice," Serena Williams said Sunday when asked about Moore's comments, "not only (to) a female athlete, but every woman on this planet that has ever tried to stand up for what they believed in and (been) proud to be a woman."

Monday, Williams posted a picture of herself on Instagram, looking ready to do battle, with the hashtags #strongisbeautiful and #womenrock.

She's right, of course. It's just too bad the reminders are still needed.



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Instead of new rule, empower referees on player ejections

Jarrett Bell

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USA TODAY Sports



BOCA RATON, FLA. There isn't much debate at the resort where NFL power brokers are meeting this week about the spirit of a proposed rule to eject players from a game after two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties.

"I like the direction we're going," Los Angeles Rams coach Jeff Fisher told USA TODAY Sports on Monday. "We're trying to emphasize sportsmanship, because it's gotten out of hand."

There are supporting numbers, like a league-record 75 unsportsmanlike penalties last season that were roughly double the norm.

"I don't think it's that big of a deal," Buffalo Bills coach Rex Ryan said. "It's about eliminating the personal battle between two players."

Yet had this suggested rule been on the books in December, when New York Giants receiver Odell Beckham Jr. and Carolina Panthers cornerback Josh Norman engaged in a dangerous, WWE-like grudge match, it would not have resulted in automatic ejections of either player.

Say what?

Beckham and Norman drew unnecessary roughness flags, not unsportsmanlike citations. Call it rule book semantics. The devil in the details that dictates "roughness" involves contact between players, while "unsportsmanlike" is of the non-contact, sticks-and-stones-may-break-my-bones variety.

If the auto-ejection rule were in effect in 2015, one player would have been tossed, Tennessee Titans linebacker Brian Orakpo, who drew two flags for arguing with an official after one play.

Listening to Dean Blandino, the NFL's officiating chief, explain Monday how the new rule would be a deterrent — and that unsportsmanlike penalties for, say, excessive group dancing amid touchdown celebrations wouldn't be subject to the two-strike ejection standard — only added to my skepticism.

The NFL rightfully wants to crack down on foolishness and send a strong, no-tolerance message. But it is going about it the



JIM O'CONNOR, USA TODAY SPORTS

Josh Norman, left, tussled with Odell Beckham Jr. in December, but neither player was ejected.

wrong way with this two-and-out business.

Instead of a new rule, the league needs to empower referees to enforce what's already in the rules. If they see Beckham-Norman-type drama, go ahead and toss 'em. Let the referees use their discretion — which I'd expect would include going to both head coaches after an initial incident and issuing a warning — and let the chips fall where they may.

Too subjective? Too bad. Let that be a deterrent, too, which might inspire teammates to demonstrate leadership and cool down a hothead in their midst.

And, sure enough, the competition committee also is making it a point of emphasis for officials to use their power to eject. That should be enough. Never mind the extra cover of a new rule.

"It is essentially giving the cop on the beat the authority to write a ticket," Hall of Fame general manager Bill Polian said.

Polian, an ESPN analyst, used to swing heavy wood for years on the competition committee ... and before that, he gave out a few T's as a basketball official. He likes the proposal and has a keen sense of nuance. He also realizes the cultural shift NFL officials would undergo if they started tossing more players at their discretion and how they could suddenly become story lines when they are trained to be anything but.

The basic mind-set for officials, to this point, has been not to eject players and to let the league office handle discipline with fines and suspensions. That philosophy needs to change. NFL officials are grown-ups. If they can't handle that authority — like baseball umpires — why are they in charge of what happens on the field? And think of the psychological boost it would deliver to a group with Big Brother watching over their collective shoulder as we inch closer

to centralized replay reviews.

Not to say that Orakpo's flags were not deserved, but near the end of the AFC title game, New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski was in the face of an official, protesting a non-call after an incompletion included a slick tug on his jersey from Denver Broncos cornerback Aqib Talib.

No flag.

See, it's subjective. Does Orakpo get that call?

Richard Sherman, the opinionated Seattle Seahawks cornerback, took NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to task last weekend for being a man "in a suit" while pushing for a new rule. While politically blasting the commish (again), Sherman could have at least acknowledged that there are influential former NFL players, such as union adversary Troy Vincent and Merton Hanks, working for Goodell.

But that's not really the point. Goodell wears a suit for sure, but you don't have to be a player to know that the game's appeal is damaged when cases such as Beckham-Norman replace the game story.

It's also striking that when Goodell first publicly floated the idea of automatic ejections, he talked about it stemming from personal fouls. Now, after further review, it has morphed into a measure to crack down on unsportsmanlike flags — while multiple horse-collar flags or face-mask violations or spearing penalties, for instance, would not result in automatic ejections.

Then again, multiple horse-collar infractions can get you tossed — and if a ref uses his power.

And that's the ticket, not another new rule.



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McIlroy eager for Match Play

World No. 3 sees format as cure for inconsistent play

Steve DiMeglio

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USA TODAY Sports



REINHOLD MATAY, USA TODAY SPORTS

Rory McIlroy finished in a tie for 27th Sunday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

AUSTIN Rory McIlroy was head and shoulders above his colleagues after winning last year's World Golf Championships-Match Play Championship in San Francisco.

Now he's trying to figure out what's going on inside his head as he readies himself to defend his title starting Wednesday in the WGC-Dell Match Play Championship at Austin Country Club.

"The good stuff is in there. I just need to eradicate the bad stuff," McIlroy said Sunday after finishing off an up-and-down week in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, where he shot 75-67-75-65 to finish tied for 27th.

"It's nothing to do with me technically. It's more mental. ... I'm beating myself up over mistakes that I'm making on the course, and then I'm not letting myself get over it so that it sort of lingers there for the next few holes."

McIlroy, 26, has fallen to No. 3 in the world rankings after holding a substantial lead last year. While he hasn't fallen off the deep end — he won the European Tour's season-ending DP World Tour Championship — he hasn't been the player the golf world came to know when he won his fourth major championship at 25. That McIlroy wouldn't have given up a three-shot, 54-hole lead two weeks ago in the WGC-Cadillac Championship when he did just that by making one birdie in the final round.

"Up and down," McIlroy said of his play last weekend at Arnie's Bash. "It's been the story of the week and sort of been the story of my year as well. I've played some great golf and not great golf. I've made a lot of mistakes."

Perhaps it's understandable considering the 10 months he's had since winning the 2015 Match Play. He got engaged to Erica Stoll, had laser eye surgery and went left-hand low with his putting grip. He rolled his left ankle July 4 while playing soccer and was forced to miss the British Open at St Andrews, his favorite course.

Solid footing has not been there.

But McIlroy doesn't allow himself to think of what might have been. "There's no point. You're just going to frustrate yourself. It happened," he said. "And I'd say some of the most enjoyable weeks last year were my rehab weeks down in Portugal. I was seeing progress every day, from not being able to walk to doing a light jog to getting back in the gym. I progressed from chipping and putting to hitting shots again. I was sort of a kid again. ...

"Since Match Play last year, my life's been great. Yes, I haven't won as much as I've liked, the ankle injury setting me back. But I got my game back at the end of the year. Things are going great in my personal life, and I do feel like I've made progress with my game and my health. I feel like I'm in a really good place. I'm going in the right direction."

He might be in the right place to get his game where he wants it. While he said the Match Play is a "weird" last event before heading the Masters in Augusta, Ga., where he's one green jacket shy of the career Grand Slam, it's a good weird.

"I love Match Play," McIlroy said. "Instead of trying to beat 155 guys out here, you're trying to beat the guy in front of you. I feel like I thrive under that type of format. I enjoy the battles. I enjoy seeing what the guy is doing right in front of you and you have to respond. I haven't been in contention enough this year, and in Match Play you're in contention from the first tee shot because every hole is a mini-tournament."

"And with the sort of golf I'm playing, with a lot of birdies and mistakes, it sort of goes well. I'm looking forward to it."

NCAA TOURNAMENT



RON CHENOY, USA TODAY SPORTS

“We want bigger things for ourselves,” says Georges Niang, left, going to the hoop Saturday, “so we’re going to keep fighting.”

Iowa State’s Niang on mission

Senior savoring first Sweet 16 but still not satisfied

Lindsay H. Jones
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USA TODAY Sports

DENVER Georges Niang didn’t spend his senior year trying to forget the failures of NCAA tournaments past. Instead, he had a constant reminder of postseason heartbreak staring him in the face dozens of times a day. Shortly after Iowa State’s first-round upset loss to Alabama at Birmingham last March as a No. 3 seed, the Cyclones forward changed the background picture on his cellphone to a photograph of himself from that game. He’s in disbelief, his hands locked behind his head. “That was a dark time, but it’s been very motivating for him,” fellow Cyclones senior Nazareth Mitrou-Long told USA TODAY Sports. Now that Niang has exorcised some of those NCAA tournament demons by leading the Cyclones to the Sweet 16, might he change

that cellphone background to something a little less somber? No chance, Mitrou-Long said, and Niang agreed. The Sweet 16 sure is nice, but it’s not the ultimate goal. “That’s not what we aspire for. Like coach (Steve Prohm) says, he wants bigger things for us. We want bigger things for ourselves, so we’re going to keep fighting,” Niang said. But that doesn’t mean this trip to the Sweet 16 isn’t special for Niang. The Cyclones will play No. 1 seed Virginia on Friday at United Center in Chicago. The winningest player in school history and the first Cyclone to play in four NCAA tournaments finally will get a chance to play in the tournament’s second week. Until now, Niang’s tournament history has been defined by disappointment. As a freshman in 2013, Niang was guarding Ohio State’s Aaron Craft when the Buckeyes guard lofted a buzzer-beater to knock off Iowa State in the Round of 32. A year later, Niang suffered a broken bone in his foot during the second half of his team’s first-round win. The Cyclones went on to beat North Carolina later that week-end to advance to the Sweet 16,

“Your best player has to play the best in March in big moments. The last two games he’s been unbelievable.”

Iowa State coach Steve Prohm on Georges Niang, who scored 28 points in each game

but Niang couldn’t play. Iowa State lost in that round to eventual national champion Connecticut, with Niang watching from the bench. “That was the (most down) a locker room has ever been after a win,” Niang recalled about the last time the Cyclones advanced out of the opening weekend. “I tried to not make it about me, even though I was extremely upset about it. It was a great joy to be in the Sweet 16. But I will tell you, it sucked sitting there watching it at Madison Square Garden.” Before this NCAA tournament started, Niang told Mitrou-Long, his roommate for four years in Ames, that if the Cyclones advanced to the Sweet 16 he wanted to feel like he had earned it. He certainly did that in two

games at the Pepsi Center in Denver. Niang had 28 points in each of the Cyclones’ first two games, first in a 94-81 win against Iona on Thursday and then in a 78-61 win against Arkansas-Little Rock on Saturday. Niang was particularly dominant early in that second game, scoring 17 points in the first half while completely staying out of foul trouble. “Your best player has to play the best in March in big moments. The last two games he’s been unbelievable,” Prohm said. That was a big difference for Niang than in last year’s tournament loss to UAB, when he had 11 points and was limited to 28 minutes on the floor because of early foul issues. When the Cyclones returned to Ames after that loss, they shut off their cellphones for days, trying to limit their interactions with anyone but each other. Once Niang emerged, he found that photograph and placed it on his phone. It’s on his Twitter page, too. “But this year, this is the year, and we believe that. He’s on a mission,” Mitrou-Long said. “Look at what he’s putting up on the board; it means everything to him.”

Self weighs in on ACC vs. Big 12

Nicole Auerbach
@NicoleAuerbach
USA TODAY Sports

This will be a week in which there will be a lot of discussion about how great the Atlantic Coast Conference is. Rightfully so, after the league placed a record six teams in the Sweet 16. But what about the conference touted as the toughest all year long? The one with seven teams in KenPom’s top



Bill Self

51. The Big 12. Of the seven teams that made the NCAA tournament, three remain: No. 1 overall seed Kansas, No. 2 seed Oklahoma and No. 4 seed Iowa State. All three are legitimate Final Four contenders. But three is not six, so USA TODAY Sports asked Jayhawks coach Bill Self: Is NCAA tournament performance a fair indicator of relative conference strength? “I think it’s fair to do that to an extent,” Self said. “But also so much of it depends on the matchups, or, a lot of times, when you’re a 1 seed, you don’t have a chance to play someone who upset a higher seed in (your game) in the second round. If you’re a 10 and beat a 7 and a 15 beats a 2 — I think that was Syracuse. Syracuse is playing lights-out; they’re playing great. But I guarantee they were probably happy it was Middle Tennessee in the second round and not Michigan State. Not that they couldn’t beat Michigan State, but just the way it fell. “I do think it’s legitimate. Last year our league did poor in the postseason. This year we didn’t get off to a great first day. But the three teams that all advanced to the second round all advanced to the third round. I think everybody has believed that the ACC all year long is a terrific league. Certainly they’ve shown it, how deep they are in the top half. Getting six in the Sweet 16 ... that’s a fabulous accomplishment. But you also have more teams in that league, too. We have three out of 10, and they have six out of however many there is. That’s terrific. “I’m just happy we’re one of the three out of our league.”

More info, better decisions

► CONTINUED FROM 1C

bine who don’t get drafted, however. And, as it’s always worth noting, being drafted in the second round can be even worse than going undrafted (at which point at least you’d be a free agent) for most college players. So pitfalls remain. But in an age of heightened awareness for the well-being of student-athletes, college basketball coaches think this new process is the right step — even though it means they could have significant roster uncertainty at the start of the spring signing period. “I was actually part of the talks with the NBA with that, and it’s not perfect,” Kansas coach Bill Self said. “We were told it was a really good first step toward getting to an end result that would be one in which everybody, NBA and college, would be more pleased. I’m going to hold my opinion until after this year, because we may be a team that’s affected by it as much as anybody in the country. We have a lot of good players, but we don’t have the high lottery picks. The lottery picks are going to go anyway. ... It’s the ones that are mid-second round or maybe projected not to get drafted — we put our name in and then how do we approach it after we put our name in? “I think in theory it’s good, because it gives the players and their families more accurate information to make a decision based on what they’re hearing from NBA people as opposed to what they’re hearing from people that maybe aren’t connected to the NBA, whether it be agents or whoever or third parties. ... I think it remains to be seen how it

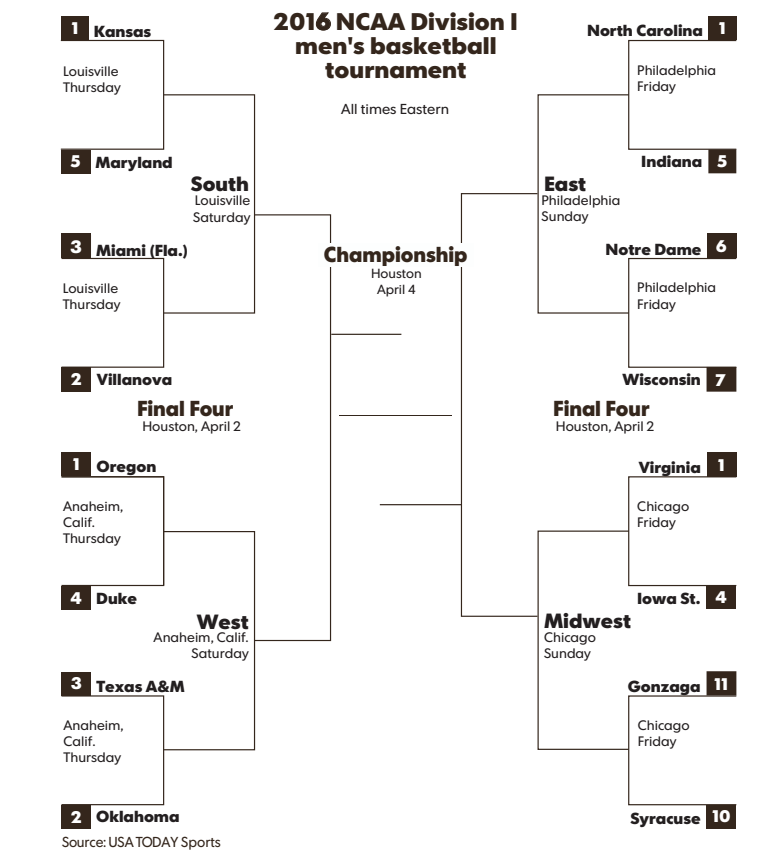


MATT CASHORE, USA TODAY SPORTS

Notre Dame junior guard Demetrius Jackson is likely to explore leaving early for the NBA draft.

plays out, the effectiveness of it. I hope it is good for our game.” Notre Dame coach Mike Brey, whose star player, Demetrius Jackson, likely will test the waters, said he thinks this is a great step for the NCAA and the NBA, and he finds it encouraging that the organizations are working together on it. Villanova coach Jay Wright thinks the new process shows that both sides are concerned about the quality of the game at both levels. “This one-and-done rule, it’s lessening the quality of both,” Wright said. “The problem with

the one-and-dones is not the guys that go to the NBA that are the first-round picks. It’s not those guys. It’s not DeMarcus Cousins. ... It’s the 50, 60 guys that should be in college for four years and would be great players in college that wind up going overseas or playing in the D-League. To have the guys identified by the NBA and to go to this predraft camp is going to make decisions for these guys. It’s going to really give them real information. And then once they go there, you’re going to get even better information to make an informed decision.



“A lot of these guys are getting bad information. They’re making an informed decision with bad information. Now they’re going to get good information, and I think you’re going to see a lot better decisions.” Self thinks the process is even more interesting this year because NBA analysts and draft pundits consider this a weak draft. “So there will be more kids that make an attempt to probably look into it. The key is it’s OK to look, but when you look, do you jeopardize your amateurism?” Self said. “If kids are smart and families are smart enough to stay on campus and not jeopardize your amateurism, then I think it could be a

good rule. But if you have all these kids that apply for the draft thinking they’re going to be one in the combine or one of the 60 that are going to be drafted or whatnot and they give up their chance to come back to school ... I’m just nervous kids are going to eliminate the opportunity to come back if they’re not smart.” That includes signing with an agent. Once a player does that, he cannot return to college. But as long as the new rules play out as they’re intended to, coaches expect to see better decisions and fewer so-called mistakes. It’s a complicated process, so a few tweaks to the system won’t fix everything. But it’s a start.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

TEN MVPS CARRY SWEET 16 HOPES

Hield, Ferrell, Koenig among ones to watch

Scott Gleeson
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USA TODAY Sports

Down to the Sweet 16 of March Madness. The NCAA men's basketball tournament's field of 68 was quickly sliced over the weekend, and the group of teams vying for a national title is much smaller. Getting to the second week didn't happen by accident, and most teams that advanced got a significant boost from an individual player. Here are the 10 most valuable players in the Sweet 16.

BUDDY HIELD, OKLAHOMA
The senior guard is a scoring machine and shoots nearly 50% from three-point range. His offensive production has obviously played a big part in the Sooners' success, and he keeps showing how he can take over games. Hield had 29 points in the second half of their second-round win against Virginia Commonwealth (36 total) and 27 against Cal State-Bakersfield in the first round.

GRAYSON ALLEN, DUKE
Allen has carried the Blue Devils offensively all season. His energy and fiery play also drive this team. The explosive guard can score driving to the basket, connecting from deep and in most any other way imaginable. In a first-round win vs. North Carolina-Wilmington, for instance, he was 15-for-17 from the free throw line. He scored 29 points in a second-round win against Yale after a blazing first half.

ANGEL RODRIGUEZ, MIAMI (FLA.)
Coach Jim Larranaga said after the Hurricanes' win against Wichita State that the one trait 5-11 Rodriguez has bigger than his



MARK D. SMITH, USA TODAY SPORTS

Buddy Hield scored 36 points for Oklahoma on Sunday.

opponents is his heart. The crafty guard plays with a grit that can shoot life into a team, and that was on full display in the second round. He's also hard to stop when he's shooting lights-out from the field. It's safe to say the Hurricanes will go as far as Rodriguez can take them.

GEORGES NIANG, IOWA STATE
The multidimensional forward scored 28 points in each of the Cyclones' two NCAA tournament games, against Iona and Arkansas-Little Rock, helping Iowa State dispatch two Cinderella-type teams in the process. Niang was an All-American in 2014-15 and had the numbers for it this season had his team not underachieved in the Big 12. Niang will be the key for the Cyclones going forward; he helped them beat fellow Sweet 16

teams Kansas and Oklahoma this season.

DOMANTAS SABONIS, GONZAGA
Former All-American Kyle Wiltjer might be the Bulldogs' best offensive weapon, but Sabonis is the team's most crucial one. The 6-11 sophomore is a force in the paint and plays with a tenacity that gives the 'Zags a backbone and identity atypical of most of Mark Few's teams. No other team in the tournament has a versatile center quite like him. To beat Gonzaga, Sabonis (17.5 points, 11.7 rebounds a game) must be stopped.

MELO TRIMBLE, MARYLAND
Trimble didn't shoot well in Maryland's second-round win against Hawaii, going 5-for-14 from the field and 1-for-6 from three-point



MARK L. BAER, USA TODAY SPORTS

Miami (Fla.) guard Angel Rodriguez was a difference-maker in the second round, scoring 28 points against Wichita State.

range. But he finished with 24 points and eight rebounds and was 13-for-14 from the free throw line. It's no secret the sophomore point guard needs to play well for the Terrapins to win, and that's especially the case against Kansas. Coach Mark Turgeon has a talented starting five, and each player is capable of scoring. But if Maryland is to upset the top-seeded Jayhawks, it will need Trimble to lead the way.

YOGI FERRELL, INDIANA
The 6-1 guard has an Isiah Thomas flavor about him, playing with an edge to fuel a team. The Hoosiers wouldn't be Big Ten regular-season champs or in the Sweet 16 without him, that's for sure. In Indiana's program-lifting second-round win against rival Kentucky, Ferrell scored 18 points and hit several clutch shots. He had 20 points and 10 assists against Tennessee-Chattanooga in the first round.

BRICE JOHNSON, NORTH CAROLINA
The senior forward has been the focus for the Tar Heels all season, averaging a double-double and tallying 39 points and 23 rebounds in a Jan. 4 win against Florida State. His role hasn't changed in the

NCAA tournament. Coach Roy Williams leans heavily on his veteran, and Johnson has responded. He had 21 points and 10 rebounds to help UNC defeat Providence. The Tar Heels will need production like that again to beat Indiana.

MALCOLM BROGDON, VIRGINIA
The Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year makes the Cavaliers better in so many ways. Against Butler, the 6-5 guard had 22 points, five rebounds and five assists. That's a usual stat line for Brogdon, who has played a big part in Virginia's last two stellar seasons. Brogdon is at the top of his game and could lift the Cavaliers to the Final Four or beyond.

BRONSON KOENIG, WISCONSIN
Koenig hit a buzzer-beating three-pointer from the right corner to oust Xavier, lifting the new-look Badgers into the Sweet 16. Frank Kaminsky, Sam Dekker and coach Bo Ryan are gone from back-to-back Final Four teams, and Koenig is one of the few remaining starters. His experience has paid off. How well he plays will determine if Greg Gard's team can advance to the Elite Eight.

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Reduced role complicates free agency

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you stay relevant is trying to find ways to play without focusing on not getting the ball. ... I think it's all just a mind-set. Some teams are better at it than others."

As Howard, 30, nears free agency, he finds himself on a team at the forefront of the changing times. The Rockets, with analytics guru Daryl Morey as general manager and All-Star guard James Harden as the long-distance leader, ranked first in three-point attempts last season (32.7 per game) and are second behind Stephen Curry and his Golden State Warriors this year (31).

The difference this time, one that has made things a tad tense in Houston and might lead to his departure, is the strategy isn't working. The Rockets, whose second-place finish in the brutal Western Conference last season was followed by their first conference finals appearance since 1997, stand at .500 and just in the playoffs. Howard, who averaged 13.4 attempts per game from 2010 to 2012, is at a career-low 8.8, with only his rookie season's 8.3 lower. In a recent stretch, Howard had a combined 22 shots against the Memphis Grizzlies, Los Angeles Clippers, Minnesota Timberwolves and Atlanta Hawks, and the team went 2-2.

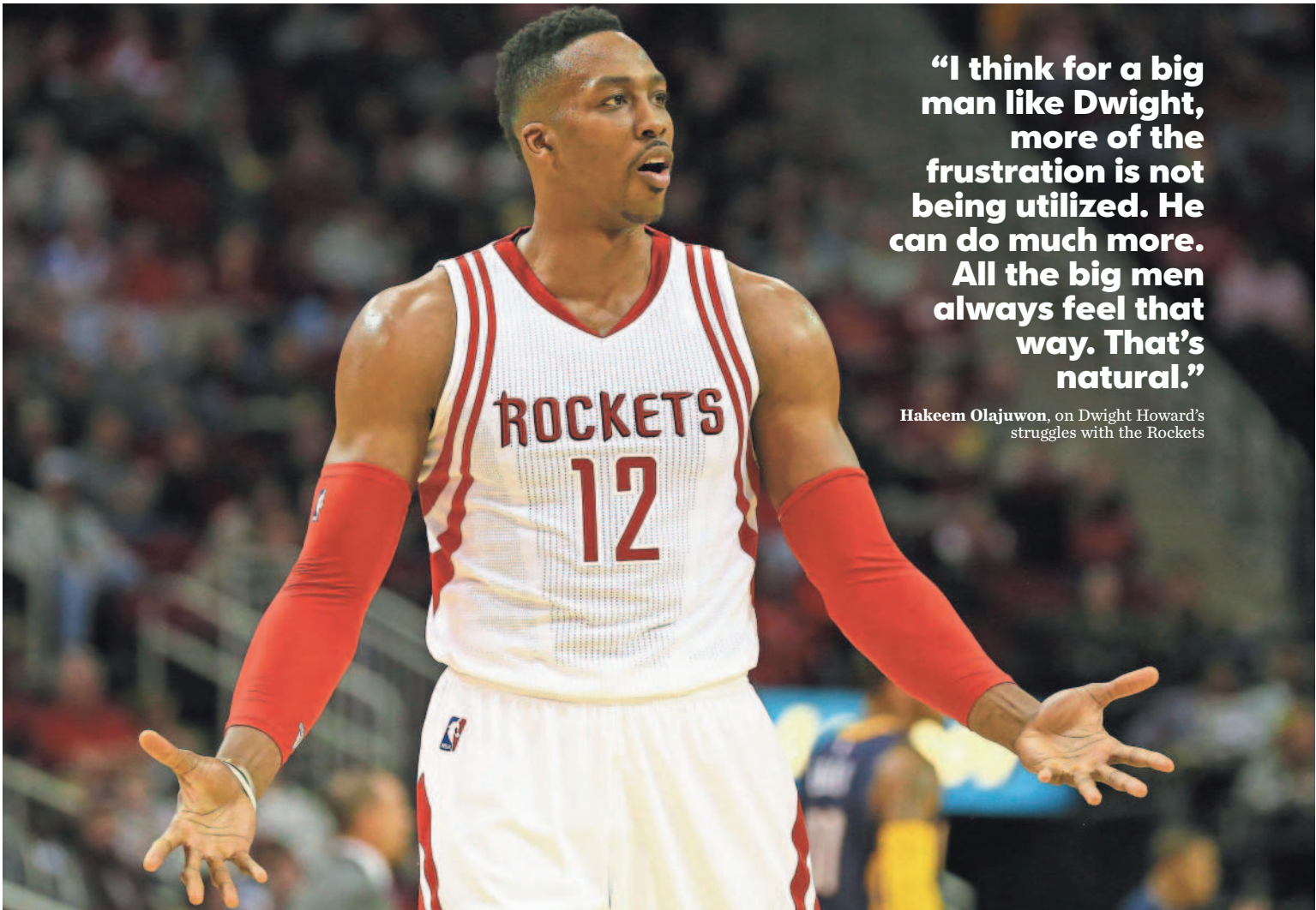
While Howard uses Stickum spray on his hands during games to help with his grip, it's Harden whose penchant for holding the ball is worthy of an Elmer's Glue sponsorship. Harden's usage rate, which calculates the percentage of a team's offensive possessions that a player uses, leads all perimeter players in the NBA at 32.8.

Howard finds himself longing for the days when things were different.

"Since I've been in the NBA, especially when we (were) in Orlando and (then-coach) Stan (Van Gundy) got there, he made a big emphasis on playing inside-out and really just playing a bully-type style of basketball," said Howard, who plans to decline his \$23.2 million player option for next season. "And we did pick and rolls too, so it was kind of like a mixture. That's what threw teams off. It wasn't (just) me getting post-ups so I can always score, but it was doing that to free up our shooters, to give them more space (and) to really shoot the ball."

PROBLEM FOR TODAY'S BIGS

With big men fast becoming NBA relics, the question of what that means for players such as Howard on the open market remains unresolved. Even with the forthcoming salary cap spike (from \$67 million



"I think for a big man like Dwight, more of the frustration is not being utilized. He can do much more. All the big men always feel that way. That's natural."

Hakeem Olajuwon, on Dwight Howard's struggles with the Rockets

TROY TAORMINA, USA TODAY SPORTS

Dwight Howard, above, is among several centers up for free agency, including Andre Drummond, Joakim Noah and Al Jefferson.

to an estimated \$92 million), teams will have to decide how many, if any, of the available centers are worth a maximum-salary deal that could cost a combined \$145 million over five years. The free agency field of centers is rich, with Howard, Andre Drummond, Joakim Noah, Hassan Whiteside and Al Jefferson among the group. How rich they will be remains to be seen.

This much is clear as it relates to Howard: He cares greatly about getting one last long-term max deal before his twilight years.

"(For people to) assume that I can't play anymore because of what they look at, you know it upsets me," said Howard, who averaged 22.4 points and 14.4 rebounds in the 12 games in which he had at least 12 shots. "I think that's what sometimes messes with my head during games. I get frustrated, and then I allow what is being said (about the state of his game) to affect me in a way where I can't be who I am every single night and who my teammates need me to be."

Yet Howard's production has been on the decline since he had back surgery in the summer of

2012 with the Los Angeles Lakers. Knee issues cost him significant time last season (he played 41 regular-season games), and back issues sidelined him leading into this one (he missed camp and all but one game of the preseason). That hasn't helped his reputation as an injury-prone player.

Along the way, his string of eight consecutive All-Star Game appearances from 2007 to 2014 segued into a two-year absence.

"That bothered me a lot," said Howard, who spent the All-Star break on a personal retreat of sorts in Scottsdale, Ariz. "I really wanted to be at All-Star weekend. I really wanted to be a part of everything, but I felt like I needed to get myself together (in Scottsdale). You have those moments in life where you really just have to get away from everything to really get the big picture."

ON THE MOVE AGAIN?

If Howard is to remain with the Rockets, it might take this scenario: He fails to find max money, not to mention the scoring role he had before; he would have to resist the urge to change teams yet again while taking a less-than-max deal.

It's merely one of many factors, but Howard is aware of his reputation as a deserter.

"It's always a factor, because I'm a people person," said Howard, lambasted after his trade demand with the Orlando Magic sent him to the Lakers and roundly criticized again when he left Los Angeles three summers ago. "Each city that I've been in, I've really tried to get into the community. When you build relationships with people that's beyond basketball and you have to leave, it really hurts. That's something that does hurt me when people say, 'Oh, he's selfish' and all that stuff. It affects me."

"Leaving Orlando, it affected me to the point where there were times where we were playing (with the Lakers) and I was like, 'Man, these people don't understand how much love I have for this city. It's bigger than just basketball.'"

But basketball will have everything to do with what happens next, and that's the problem. When Howard signed with the Rockets in the summer of 2013, their "Legacy of Bigs" — as the poster that's plastered on the Toyota Center parking garage

reads — was an attractive part of the franchise's history. The image, with Howard up top and Yao Ming, Hakeem Olajuwon, Ralph Sampson, Elvin Hayes and Moses Malone below, was supposed to be a foreshadowing of greatness to come.

Instead, even Olajuwon admits he's not sure if Howard's days in Houston are about to come to an end. "I know he loves Houston, and he wants to be here," Olajuwon told USA TODAY Sports. "(He's) trying to find his identity again. I think for a big man like Dwight, more of the frustration is not being utilized. He can do much more. All the big men always feel that way. That's natural. But what I try to tell him is get more in the flow of the game."

"There are some intangibles (that are important). It's not, 'I want the points. I want the rebounds.' (It's) intimidation, fighting for position and (making it so) his man can't leave him and that creates more room for James to (room), and where if you leave him it's a lob. ... There are other intangibles to bring to the team. Just win games. Don't worry about it. Just win."

MLB hopes for new Cuban player transfer system

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game between the Rays and the Cuban national team.

While MLB has benefited from a substantial influx of Cuban talent in recent years, those players have typically reached the USA after risking their lives by escaping on boats, often with the intervention of human traffickers.

Both parties would like to end that practice, but they don't necessarily agree on the way to do it.

"I think we will have a new system for the movement of Cuban players in the relatively near future," Manfred told a group of U.S.-based news reporters, adding that it figures to come within the context of the new collective bargaining agreement, expected to be in place this fall.

"We do feel pressure to make a change as a result of some of the abuses of which we've become painfully aware the last few years."

Star players such as Yasiel Puig, Jose Abreu and Yoenis Cespedes defected by boat in recent years and established residency in third countries, allowing them to become free agents and negotiate contracts worth upwards of \$35 million each.

But their harrowing tales brought to light the risky nature of their defections, which in Puig's case included being held captive in Mexico by smugglers seeking a cut of his bonus money.

The process of reforming the system is complicated by the participation of four entities — MLB, the players association and the U.S. and Cuban governments — each with its own interests, and an embargo the Republican-led Congress has shown no intention of lifting. Manfred thinks major reforms can be made even with



PHOTOS BY JORGE ORTIZ, USA TODAY SPORTS

Rays pitching coach Jim Hickey, center, works with Cuban kids at a clinic in Havana on Monday.

the embargo in place.

"We want the embargo to be eliminated so what we're doing in good faith for baseball and for our players is just, fair and rational," Cuban baseball commissioner Heriberto Suarez said. "The idea is for our players to be able to go to the United States with an equality of conditions and rights, just as the citizens of any other country."

That's still not the case.

Until last week, when the Obama administration further eased restrictions, Cuban citizens could not earn a substantial U.S. salary

unless they had started the process of emigrating. As it stands right now, they can receive a salary only if they don't pay special taxes in Cuba.

The regime of President Raul Castro has allowed standouts such as Yulieski Gourriel, Frederick Cepeda and Alfredo Despaigne to play in foreign leagues in recent years, but with the government keeping a significant percentage of their salaries.

While high-level officials continue to hash out their differences, fans of the island's most popular sport are thrilled for the

rare chance to watch a major league team in Cuban soil. The only other time that has happened in the last half-century was in 1999, when the Baltimore Orioles prevailed 3-2 in an exhibition game against the Cuban national team.

At the urging of his players, and recognizing the significance of the moment, Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash plans to start Class AA outfielder Dayron Varona — the Rays' only Cuban-born player and a veteran of seven seasons in the island's league — as the right fielder and



An image of Che Guevara adorns a building across from Plaza de la Revolucion.

leadoff batter.

His first at-bat figures to make for an emotional moment at Estadio Latinoamericano, even if the expected sellout crowd is composed mostly of Communist party members, as some in Havana have quietly grumbled (public dissent is strongly discouraged).

Among the interested participants Tuesday will be Pavel Hernandez, a pitching prospect for the famed Industriales team in Havana who will serve as a bat boy.

Hernandez, 19, has been keeping close track of the recent baseball and political developments.

"The presidents of both countries still have to meet, but Commissioner Rob Manfred has already said he would be happy if Cuban players didn't have to continue defecting, but rather go straight to MLB," Hernandez said. "This is something that could impact my future. I could be in that situation one day."