

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The West

The Senate might not have the votes to call additional witnesses for impeachment, according to reports this week. All 47 Democrats are united in their call for more evidence, but four additional republicans are required to pass a motion. For their part, republican and democrat voters remain divided on whether Senators should seek more evidence for the proceedings.

The East

China's coronavirus was declared a global emergency this week by the WHO. While Chinese authorities have quarantined several cities, WHO officials cited concerns over the disease spreading to other countries. There have been nearly 100 cases outside of China so far, although no patients have died.

Focus: Kobe Bryant

Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter accident last weekend, sending shockwaves across the US. A former Laker and one of the best basketball players in history, Bryant embodied sportsmanship and drive everywhere he went. The accident also killed his daughter, Gianna, and seven other people.

Volume XVI

We begin this week with Kobe's accidental and premature death and continue with China's coronavirus that has placed millions into quarantine. We also discuss Netanyahu's corruption charges, Trump's Middle East plan, and more news about impeachment (because we simply can't rid ourselves of new news there). In the "What's up this weekend" section we include new NY Philharmonic as well as NYC Ballet performances, among others. Finally, we included some thought-provoking "Further Reading" pieces below.

The Battery



Robert Wagner Park in Battery Park City contains amazing views of the Hudson and the Statue of Liberty. However, as a tennis fan I could not help but notice that the lawn is about the same size as a tennis court—it would be an amazing place to play! Maybe we can do an AceSpace promotional event there when the weather heats up.

Letter From The Editor

Dear Reader:

It is weeks like this one that we strive to give you the most up-to-date information possible about goings on around the world. Sure, you've probably heard about Kobe Bryant and the coronavirus (and they certainly deserve a place in our pages) but there is a lot going on behind the big headlines. We work to make sure you hear about these stories as well.

January was a news-heavy month for 2020, and it forced us to stay on our toes as we continue to learn about this thing called "reporting." So many big events contrasted with smaller-but-also-significant ones, and it was quite interesting learning how to discern between lasting stories and merely "shocking" headlines. We welcome the challenge.

Finally, an update on our progression: we are still planning on updating our website and starting a podcast, and took steps this month towards making both of them a reality. Stay tuned for more as we continue to work through the specifics of both of these.

Your editor,

Chris Sabaitis



Something Delicious

A friend of mine sent me an article about the history of curry (attached below in *Further Reading*), and it got me thinking about making the traditional dish. There are so many variations, but they generally require a lot of time to prepare and cook to be delicious. Then I came across [this recipe](#) online. It takes only 24 minutes and has 11 ingredients, and will surely add some spice to your usual routine.

Ingredients

- 1 pound chicken thighs (boneless, skinless)
- 1.25 cups chicken stock (low sodium)
- 1 white onion (large, finely diced)
- salt (to taste)
- 3 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon ginger (minced)
- 0.5 cups frozen peas
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 handful cilantro (for garnish)
- 3 tablespoons curry powder (adjust to taste)

Directions

1. Heat oil in a skillet. Fry onion until translucent.
2. Add bay leaf, minced ginger and garlic. Sauté, cook for couple of minutes until the raw smell of garlic and ginger is gone.
3. Add chicken thighs cut into cubes. Cook in the pan for 2 minutes.
4. Add curry powder and salt to taste. Cook for 2 minutes.
5. Once curry powder is fragrant, pour chicken stock. You can use any broth or stock or just water to cook chicken. Simmer and cook chicken for 10 to 12 minutes.
6. Once chicken is cooked through, add frozen peas and cook for a minute or two. Adding peas is optional step.
7. Reduce heat to lowest temperature, pour coconut milk. For thicker consistency use coconut cream. Store and let it cook for a minute.
8. Remove skillet from heat. Sprinkle coriander leaves or cilantro.
9. Serve hot immediately over a bed of rice or with naan.

Finance and Markets

Global markets took a hit this week as China's coronavirus continued to spread. Markets opened lower on Monday and stayed weak as investors tried to weigh the risks of the virus on Chinese commerce. Despite these concerns, some individual technology stocks, including Amazon and Tesla, saw their share prices increase as they released new earnings reports.

The strength in technology sales shows that, despite concerns about China, American consumers are still doing well despite worries of an impending economic downturn. However, this strength is not shared by European economies, who saw further declines in output “as strikes and protests against the government’s pension plan curtailed business activity” in France and as Italy’s economy contracted.¹

Headlines

Kobe Bryant, 41, killed in helicopter accident

Legendary LA Lakers player Kobe Bryant was killed along with his daughter, Gianna, and seven other people this week in a helicopter accident. Bryant’s helicopter collided into the side of a mountain while he, his daughter, and a few others affiliated with his daughter’s school basketball team were flying to a game that day. His death sent shockwaves across the US, with many current and former players, including LeBron James, coming out with heartfelt stories of their time together.²

According to reports, Bryant’s helicopter was flying through a thick fog that made standard navigation nearly impossible. The incident has raised questions about the safety of privately-owned helicopters.

The Coronavirus

The coronavirus from Wuhan, China was declared a global emergency by the WHO as it continued to spread this week. Despite China quarantining its citizens *en masse*, and there have been nearly 100 cases outside of China (although no reported deaths outside of the country).³ Five of those cases have been in the United States, including one case where a man caught the virus from another person.

Netanyahu Formally Indicted

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin “Bibi” Netanyahu was formally indicted over corruption charges this week even as he insisted he was innocent. According to CNN, “the charges in court mean that Netanyahu will be the first sitting prime minister to face trial in [Israel’s] history.”⁴ Court documents accuse the Prime Minister of helping the Walla! News website obtain regulatory benefits in exchange for favorable coverage during his time as the Minister of Communications. Netanyahu has appealed to the Knesset for immunity.

While there is another election coming up in March, polls suggest that the indictment won’t change much. There have already been two elections that confirmed Netanyahu as prime minister, and despite the headlines his supporters have yet to waiver.

Trump Announces a New Middle East Peace Plan

Trump’s team revealed the Administration’s new Middle East plan on Tuesday. While the deal was welcomed by Israeli politicians from across Israel’s spectrum, it was rejected even before it was announced by Palestinian representatives. Turkey and Iran also issued condemnations even as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar announced partial support.⁵

Among other contentions, Palestinians have criticized the plan for its proposed treatment of Jerusalem. The city, viewed as a religious site by both Jews and Muslims, has literally been the center of the debate and is claimed by both the Palestinian Authority and Israel as their capital.

The Senate Might Not Call New Witnesses

The week began with some headlines speculating

The Compendium

By Gilad Penn

Fake news didn't start with Donald Trump; it started with wasabi. 99% of the “wasabi” we eat with our sushi in the US isn’t *Wasabia japonica* but is actually a combination of horseradish, sweetener, and a green dye. Real wasabi originates from the Japanese mountains and grows natively in streams with rocky soil. However it’s notoriously difficult to grow: it requires a constant supply of spring water, shade, and a temperate 46 to 68 degrees all year round. And to make matters worse, the plants are extremely susceptible to pests and disease. This explains why wasabi runs around \$550 per pound and holds the title for the most expensive vegetable (by weight).



With such a high price tag, real wasabi understandably tastes much different than our American imitation: it doesn’t have a burning aftertaste but rather is herbal, gentle, earthy and refreshes the mouth. And contrary to popular belief, wasabi isn’t a root—it’s considered a rhizome.

To prepare for cooking, the stem is grated (traditionally using an oroshigane) into a paste. This preparation process causes a chemical reaction, releasing the plant’s unique flavor and natural sweetness. This flavor is ephemeral (it lasts only 15 to 30 minutes) and Japanese restaurants serve wasabi fresh.

And finally, Japanese wasabi allegedly has numerous health-related properties. Not only does it boost digestion and hunger and is known to suppress the odor from fish but some scientists say it serves as an antibacterial agent and might help prevent/fight cancer. Bon appetite! [[source 1](#)] [[source 2](#)]

that the senate might vote to hear additional evidence during the ongoing impeachment proceedings, but these stories may have been premature. New reports on Friday now indicate that democrats might not have the 51 votes necessary to call new witnesses.⁶

Two republicans, Susan Collins and Mitt Romney, have indicated that they would vote to hear additional testimony; Lisa Murkowski said she would make her decision later on Friday. A 50-50 split would potentially require Chief Justice John Roberts to intervene, something leaders in both parties have said they would rather avoid.

What's up this weekend?

Saturday Matinee: Enigma Variations

Where David Geffen Hall

When Saturday, 2pm

What “Treat yourself to a sublime Saturday afternoon of music. Enigma Variations — Elgar’s crowning achievement — portrays his social circle with irresistible tunes and “inside jokes,” with the heart of the work, the stirring “Nimrod”, often heard in commemoration of departed friends. Plus, chamber music to start the concert and a stimulating post-concert Q & A with our musicians.” *-the website*

Stravinsky & Balanchine

Where NYC Ballet

When Saturday & Sunday

What “The collaboration of Igor Stravinsky and George Balanchine ranks as one of the most fruitful pairings in 20th-century art. Danses Concertantes, the rare Balanchine-Stravinsky ballet not danced in leotards, is a playful work with tart suggestions of humor and bright costumes. Initially presented separately, Monumentum pro Gesualdo and Movements for Piano and Orchestra have been twinned for more than 50 years. Completing the program is the classic Stravinsky Violin Concerto, among the most celebrated of the many dances Balanchine created to the composer’s work.” *-the website*

Epic Scavenger Hunt

Where The Acorn Theater

When February 1 - 12, 2020

What “From City Hall to Washington Square Park, this hunt will take you to all the best sights and hidden gems! Tourist, local, or new to town, this is a lively small group activity that anyone can enjoy. Lace up your walking shoes and get ready to experience the city like you never have before. Snap pics, race against the clock, and put your navigation skills to the test as you wander at your own pace. No reservations, no tour guides, and fun for all ages.” *-the website*

[Paradise Lost](#)

Where The Acorn Theater

When February 1 - 24, 2020

What “Tom Dulack brings a fresh, accessible and even funny take on John Milton's classic tale of Lucifer's temptation of eve.” *-the website*

[The Exponential Festival](#)

Where Brooklyn: Bushwick, Clinton Hill, Fort Greene, Williamsburg, Sunset Park

When January, 2020

What “Exponential is the only month-long January festival dedicated to New York City-based emerging artists working in experimental performance. The participants in this multi-artist, multi-venue festival are committed to ecstatic creativity in the face of commercialism. Exponential is driven by inclusiveness and a diversity of artists, forms, and ideas coupled with utopian resource-sharing, mentoring and the championing of risky, rigorous work in eclectic fields to keep theatre kicking.” *-the website*

Further Reading

<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/curry-origins-history/index.html>

- ✦ A fascinating story about the history of curry! This article inspired the curry recipe above. Thanks to Grace Song of CocuSocial for sharing.

<https://reason.com/2020/01/30/the-1619-project-depicts-an-america-tainted-by-original-sin/>

- ✦ Columbia Professor John McWhorter discusses the New York Times's *1619* project.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/02/03/the-last-time-democracy-almost-died>

- ✦ A piece from the New Yorker about democracy in the United States.

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Citations

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/global-stocks-drift-lower-on-economic-growth-concerns-11580466790>

² https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/28579524/lebron-james-kobe-bryant-legacy-becomes-my-responsibility

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-51318246>

⁴ <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/28/middleeast/israel-netanyahu-withdraws-immunity-request-intl/index.html>

⁵ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/01/trump-unveil-israeli-plan-latest-updates-200128132737854.html>

⁶ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/gop-senators-appear-likely-to-block-witnesses-in-impeachment-trial-11580466602>