Saving Nina Simone's Birthplace as an Act of Art and Politics

By RANDY KENNEDY

TRYON, N.C. — If you wanted to make a pilgrimage to the childhood home of W.E.B. Du Bois in Massachusetts or Malcolm X in Nebraska, you'd have to settle for a historical marker. The house of those civil rights activists were lost before preservationists could save them, as many important African-American historical sites have been.

It's a fate that easily could have met a humble three-room clapboard house in a city in this country, nestled in the South of the Blue Ridge Mountains, unknown even to many residents until a few years ago. For those who knew that 30 East Livingstone Street was the birthplace of Tryon's most famous resident — the singer and legend Nina Simone — the house's disappearance on the market last year crystallized fears that its existence, as poignant as that of the famous Civil Rights activist, might be slipping away.

And that, unsung, is what the New York art world entered the picture.

Over the last month, four prominent African-American artists — the conceptualist Adam Pendleton, the sculptor and painter Rashid Johnson, the collage and filmmaker Ellen Gallagher and the abstract painter Julie Mehretu — quietly got together, pooled their money and began competing to snatch up the house for $350,000. They describe the purchase as an act of conscience, a political act of art. A group of artists grouped around the conceptualist Paul Rucker, who founded the Arts and Culture collective, said that the sale was a "deepening racial divide in America" when Simmons lived there.

It wasn't long after the election that this all began to happen, and I was desperate like a lot of people.

Continued on Page A20

FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS 7 NIXON AIDES ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY ON WATERGATE; Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Mitchell on list

The Times devoted a five-page section — as well as four front-page articles — to coverage of the Watergate scandal and the White House's efforts to cover it up. In total, seven former aides to President Nixon were charged.
A New Look for These Pages

I'm not a huge fan, I'll admit, of masthead, the newspaper nameplates that by custom have long been placed on opinion pages, including, until today, this one. They tend to fill up space with information that seldom changes. In the case of these two precious pages, the peculiar configuration of the masthead — split between modules at the top and bottom of the page you're now reading — created roadblocks that contributed, over many years, to a certain rigidity and even predictability of design in a space that should be as turbulent, powerful, even sometimes as shocking as the ideas and arguments themselves.

And so today we begin to play again with this space. Please don't be surprised if these editions contain a full 'un of letters, just as you're accus-

ed to. But some days, when we have a particularly significant or that seems to focus, we'll just one editorial, and continue one of the experts our editorial board. Other x, we might bring a traditionally appeared page onto this page instead, and provide more scope on the opposing page for other ideas.

We've made some other minor changes to produce what we think is a less cluttered, more elegant presentation. And we've added a header — "Opinion" — to signal what separates the work here from the news pages of The Times. On these two pages we're aiming to supply you with the best mix of the arguments we're now publishing digitally in this day and day out. You can find all that work on the web at nytimes.com/opinion, and the Times apps under "Opinion."

Along with the Times writers you've learned to trust, you'll be encountering new voices, and new arguments you might be inclined to disagree with, in the months ahead. When Adolph Ochs articulated the mission for The Times in 1896, he famously said that it would report the news "without fear or favor". Less famously, but in the next breath, he said that The Times would also provide "a forum for the consideration of all questions of public importance" and "so that end to invite intelligent discussion from all shades of opinion." In that spirit, when The Times launched the Op-Ed page in 1970, it was intended to be not just physically opposite the editorials — the institutional voice of The Times — but often ideologically at odds with them as well. As one of my predecessors put it, the two pages together would create an area for "the whole broad range of opinion, the con-

Title is too long to be in this clipping. It's all too easy these days to read what, and we're inclined to agree with, in the months ahead. When Adolph Ochs articulated the mission for The Times in 1896, he famously said that it would report the news "without fear or favor". Less famously, but in the next breath, he said that The Times would also provide "a forum for the consideration of all questions of public importance" and "so that end to invite intelligent discussion from all shades of opinion." In that spirit, when The Times launched the Op-Ed page in 1970, it was intended to be not just physically opposite the editorials — the institutional voice of The Times — but often ideologically at odds with them as well. As one of my predecessors put it, the two pages together would create an area for "the whole broad range of opinion, the con-

Cross-Border Allies Hold the Line In a Beetle Battle

By KIRK SEMPLE

RIO BRAVO, Mexico — It has be-deviled the United States for more than a century, becoming a bane of the American Smith, causing widespread joblessness and setting off countless debates about stopping migration from Latin America. This is a wave that even the biggest, most expensive wall might never hold back.

We're talking about the boll weevil. It is just one of the many issues that rely on bilateral cooperation between the United States and Mexico, and it embod-

ies, in microcosm, many of the essential qualities of the broader relationship be-

tween the two countries: an alliance bor-

ding on co-dependence despite eco-
nomic, political and cultural differences.

contrast, Texas had harvested more than five million, according to the latest esti-

mates by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Ray Frohle, the retired head of the de-

partment of entomology at Texas A&M University, described the outside influe-

ence of Tamaulipas as "this little bull that's wagging this giant dog."

The state, he said, are high. "If we don't finish it off, the boll weevil could re-

Invade the United States, and we could be back to the old old days of spraying a lot of insecticide."

Tamaulipas knows all too well the heartache the boll weevil can wreak. Co-

ton was once king here, too; about half a million acres were in cultivation in the mid-20th century.
Fleeing Western Mosul’s ISIS Battle
Irqs sought safety as fighting battered Mosul. The chronicle of one family’s escape with a pregnant woman and a dog. Page 85

Vision Shrinks As Mayor Aims For Re-election
By J. DAVID GOODMAN and WILLIAM NEUMAN
For much of his first three years in office, Mayor Bill de Blasio presented his policies as “transcendent,” the gains of his administration as “historic” and the seemingly interlinked problems of urban life as solvable — if only those around him in New York would share his vision and load of com-
mmitment.
But as Mr. de Blasio begins his campaign for re-election this year, his tone has become markedly more modest, and his trumpet more of a pianissimo.
The ambitions of Mr. de Blasio’s progressive government, once rickety grandiose in his promises to unite a city starkly divided along economic lines, have become grounded — both by the stark realities of governance, and politics. Nowhere has the shift been in greater evidence than in Mr. de Blasio’s promise, on Tuesday, to reduce the city’s ballooning homeless-shelter population, which now stands around 60,000, by a mere 2,500 people over five years — less than 1 percent a year, on av-

Obama Officials Raced to Preserve Russian T
This article is by MATTHEW ROSEN-
berg, ADAM GOLDMAN and MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT.
WASHINGTON — In the ele-
elect Donald J. Trump and Rus-

sions are close to Russia’s p

OMAN TO MARDI GRAS
Years before there was a New Orleans, Mobile, Al-
Continued on Page A85
The guy on the plane just wanted to pick a movie. A new category would help.

Altogether, he, too, might feel limited and gradually explore beyond it. Then, a woman directed with a wave and a man could show her that close-up was was made to see on the back seat, and the latest in the "Star Wars" franchise could make him choose a female heroine.

He would also be advised by such figures as "Hidden Figures," about three African-American women who also pioneered the American space program, or such other universals as all and a faux found women in "Jim and "Moonlight.

These movies "chick flicks" entry-level test of their social and emotional balance through nuanced, flowing, and fluid associations. And at the Academy Awards just closed, all three women a long way toward ending the division of human beings by race and gender. As Tarrell Alvin McCraney, the playwrite who has been recognized for his play "Moonlight," has said: "We do not see in equal measure, and, therefore, are not able to see human beings. But, at the same time, we do see in equal measure and, therefore, do see human beings.

The guy on the plane just wanted to pick a movie. A new category would help.
What Donald Trump Gets Right on Trade

Alan Tonelson

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When it comes to U.S. trade policy, Donald Trump is the man to beat. His administration has scored several key victories, including securing a new trade agreement with Canada and Mexico, as well as negotiating better deals with several other countries. Trump’s aggressive approach has earned him a reputation as a tough negotiator who is not afraid to take a hard line. As a result, his critics argue that his policies are too protectionist and will harm the U.S. economy. However, Trump has also made some significant contributions to American prosperity. His administration has been successful in negotiating better trade deals, which has helped to create jobs and increase wages for American workers. In addition, Trump’s commitment to reducing regulations and lowering taxes has helped to stimulate economic growth. Overall, Trump’s trade policies have been a mixed bag, with both successes and failures. But one thing is clear: Donald Trump is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to U.S. trade policy.
New York Times Feminist Reading Group, March 2, 2017 at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California
When he started out in 1981, reporting against the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, Jones walked on thin ice. He was arrested and thrown into jail for a month. He then fled to El Salvador, where he worked as a freelance journalist and was arrested again, this time on the border with Mexico. He was put in solitary confinement for two weeks before being released.

Jones later became a correspondent for the New York Times and won the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the war in Afghanistan. He also wrote several books, including "The Blood of the Tiger" and "The Music of the Rhino." He was known for his fearlessness and dedication to his craft, and his reporting was widely respected.

Jones was killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in 2010, while covering the war. He was 46 years old. His death was a great loss to journalism and the fight against corruption and impunity.

New York Times reporter James Risen has been investigating the National Security Agency's surveillance program for several years. He has written several books on the topic, including "Classified: The Global War on Secrecy and the U.S. Intelligence Community." Risen has been a controversial figure, with some saying he has put national security at risk by publishing classified information.

Jones's reporting was widely celebrated for its clarity and depth, and he was known for his ability to get to the heart of a story. He was a true advocate for freedom of the press and for the safety of journalists around the world.
The Three Donald Trumps Speak

Adviser Lady: Everybody is saying on reasonable President Trumps in his big speech to Congress, but I made it crazy. I was yelling at the TV in white pants. The bishop on the chair was saying he's to the leadership, how am I going to make it through forty years?

You Can't Stand Trump: Prioritize: If everybody says makes you start howling, your treasured ones are going to stop paying attention to you. Or look at the sitcom.

The stock market is booming after hot speeches! Just because they didn’t win, they need to be hashed out in a grand plan. There’s such a thing as setting the bar too low.

L.L.: The key to understanding our present is in realizing there are three versions of Donald Trump. The one who obsesses about crowd size and expresses fears is a known, classic acting national heath care plan it hard. That’s the one we don’t want to start a recession.

So, the Dow went up 400 points because Uninsured didn’t show up to ad

Yes. The second version is Reasonable Chaiting Trump. R.C.T. is the one who pre-speech gatherings with journalist in which he was quoted as saying impending immigration law reform and making the Dreamers legal. Everyone was very excited. He had a clear idea on what to do.

If you ever have an opportunity to sit down with the president for a private con

Yes, we don’t normally expect to have our student newsmen in how — scarcely, exceptionally anti-American.

But just be glad he seems to have ab

Only when he has a teaperson

If you want to find something to move your bottom at, take a closer look at those brief remarks condemning “hate and evil in all of its ugly forms.” Trump began with a nod to Black History Month, then defended Clinton against Jewish

We should talk about the shooting, which was in Florida, a state that has become a tech worker from Idaho.

It wasn’t even in Kansas City?

That’s a sad little over-obsessive.

The shooting involved two young men who fell close to the United States at college students. Liked it here and stayed. The gunman apparently thought...
What Donald Trump Gets Right on Trade

Alan Tomelson

HATEFUL confusion people might have about President Donald Trump's position on trade and manufacturing can be summarized by his recent tough stance on trade with China. Trump's decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum is a step in the right direction. It is a welcome undermining of China's single market and a strong signal that the United States will not be a pushover in the global economy.

President Trump's stance is one of his most popular positions and has been a major factor in his success in the 2016 presidential race. Trump has made it clear that he will not be a pushover in the global economy. He has promised to renegotiate international trade agreements and make it easier for American workers and companies to do business abroad.

Trump's decision to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum is a step in the right direction. It is a welcome undermining of China's single market and a strong signal that the United States will not be a pushover in the global economy.

And what his critics don't understand about manufacturing.

A: You really are tough.
B: Yes, I am.
C: And what do you mean by being tough?
B: I mean being tough in the way that I've always been tough. I mean being tough in the way that I've always been tough.
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Setting a New Standard for ‘Ambition’

By JACOB BERNEIT

There is nothing particularly fiery about Tory Burch. Shortly after the 2004 debut of the fashion company that bears her name, Ms. Burch was profiled in The New York Times, with the reporter noting that if reserve could be behind her, Ms. Burch would perhaps have a “bloody passe." But the issue of ambition, and the way it is used to define women, is nevertheless personal to her.

Ms. Burch grew up in Valley Forge, Pa., with her parents, Ruth and Ross Robinson, a fashionably iconoclastic pair who had been married in Morocco, celebrated Christmas in France, although her was Jewish; and ran a business with their sons. She said she learned to use, and to be, a global brand.

HerCONSTANT WARNER

Ms. Burch’s 2016 newsletter to subscribers, which included a photo of herself and a young woman, was seen as offensive by some. The newsletter was pulled after a conversation with Ms. Burch. Ms. Burch said the newsletter was meant to be a statement of power and ambition.

The campaign MS. Burch has been promoting is her “Ambition” campaign, which seeks to reclaim a word that is often used to define women. The campaign has included ads, articles, and social media posts, all aimed at encouraging women to be bold and ambitious. Ms. Burch said she was inspired to create the campaign after hearing about the challenges faced by women in the workplace.

The campaign has been embraced by many women, who see it as a way to challenge the gender stereotypes that often define women. Ms. Burch said she hopes the campaign will help women to be more confident and ambitious in their careers.

New York Times Feminist Reading Group, March 2, 2017 at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California
Setting a New Standard for ‘Ambition’

By JACOB BERNSTEIN

There is nothing particularly fiery about Tory Burch. Shortly after the 2016 debut of the fashion company that bears her name, Ms. Burch was profiled in The New York Times, with the reporter noting that if a reservoir could be bottled, Ms. Burch would probably “have a blackbasius fragrance.”

So it may come as something of a surprise that the ad campaign she was promoting on Tuesday morning by phone from her office in the Flatiron district does not have a couple of startet models photographed by the ubiquitous Mario Testino, but is instead a stark, black-and-white video that takes on a surreal tone that dominates the last presidential campaign and has divided people on the right and left.

Making its debut next Wednesday, on International Women’s Day, the campaign, called “Embrace Ambition,” features Julie Anne Moore, Melissa Gatt, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jamie Lee Curtis, Anna Wintour, Rosie Wintour and other famous people (both male and female) talking in front of a screen about reclaiming a word that has often been used to vilify women.

“We embrace ambition,” Ms. Paltrow says.

“I can think of a lot of dirty words,” Ms. Wintour says. “Ambition is not one of them.”

All the proceeds from the sale of accompanying bracelets and T-shirts will go toward a foundation Ms. Burch started in 2009 in her name: PowHer.

Nevertheless, she decided to choose his words carefully as she spoke about the campaign.

Although she designed a Future for Hillary Clinton’s unsuccessful presidential campaign and has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to Democratic politicians over the last few years, she wanted to get away from the idea that this project was politically motivated. “I’m not a political person,” she said.

The campaign was born of a tweet from Ms. Burch’s husband, the designer Reed Krakoff, who said he was tired of hearing women describe their ambitions as “ambitious.”

Ms. Burch supports him apologetically, that she would like to do something that unites rather than divides the country. Also, she added, “I have a lot of Republican friends” and “they want their daughters to have the same rights as men.” But the issue of ambition, and the way it is used to define women, is nevertheless personal to her.

Ms. Burch grew up in Valley Forge, Pa., her parents, Buddy and Reva Robinson, were a fashionably International pair who vacationed in Montecito, celebrated Christmas, although Reva was Jewish; and rang a bell for dinner, because something out of a Will Cather novel.

“She taught us that with hard work we could achieve anything,” she said of herself and her three brothers. “It was never about gender.”

Ms. Burch attended the University of Pennsylvania and majored in art history. She moved to New York and became a fashion publicist who was often photographed on the charity circuit, attending benefits for Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and the American Ballet Theater. After she married a venture capitalist, J. Christopher Burch, who helped launch her company, the pairing started. (The couple divorced in 2006.)

This was confusing to Ms. Burch, who never saw herself as being a particularly threatening person. On one hand, she is constantly telling her female employees not to say “maybe” and “I don’t know.” On the other, she often uses trite phrases of ambition.

“Do it, too,” she said. “I’m guilty of it myself.”

In 2009, Ms. Burch started the Tory Burch Foundation and, through a partnership with Bank of America, saw it grow to an organization that ultimately gave more than $35 million to female entrepreneurs around the world.

Many of her recipients of these grants had experienced the same kind of sexism she faced. They were called too hungry, too intent on power, too ambitious—code words used in place of the more vulgar expressions that men (and sometimes women, too) used when they were out of control.

“There was a harmful double standard,” Ms. Burch said.

Ms. Burch said she decided to do the public service announcement long before Senator Donald J. Trump was elected president, though the video was shot in the last few weeks.

And the campaign, which is coming out at a time when women’s rights activists seem emboldened by the country’s rightward turn, is intent on reclaiming the many descriptors that are frequently used derisively against them.

In October, Mr. Trump called Ms. Clinton a “nasty woman” during the third presidential debate, prompting Clinton surrogates like Katy Perry to begin wearing that phrase on T-shirts, inside a heart, during fund-raisers.

In February, Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky and the majority leader, got into a dust-up with Senator Elizabeth Warren, Democrat of Massachusetts, when she tried to give a speech against Senator Jeff Sessions’s nomination for attorney general. He shot her down, saying: “She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted.”

Soon, “the persisted” became a hashtag with thousands of tweets on Twitter and Instagram by fans of Ms. Warren, who regard it as a show of strength and resolve. (Fittingly, Ms. Moore, the actress, appears in Ms. Burch’s campaign, inviting young women to “be the persisted.”)

And the word “feminist” began to shift its definition. Bella Abzug and Betty Friedan connotations, as women like Michelle Obama went from saying they are “not feminists” but “humanists” to wearing T-shirts at anti-Trump events that had the word “feminist” emblazoned across the center.

Mr. Burch understands where the initial hesitation with that word comes from. She once thought she was a little too traditionally feminine to identify that way. Not anymore.

“Told by a reporter that a member of her team had recently used the ‘humanist not a feminist’ argument to describe her inclinations, Ms. Burch sounded almost horrified,”

“Who said that?” she said. “I am a feminist.”