

THE

OPTIMAL

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Economy Gets Trumped Up

President Donald Trump has claimed his administration is inspiring economic confidence as never seen before. However, Trump's first week in the Oval Office was met with mixed results from world markets as diplomatic and financial tensions ripple from Washington.

The steady performance of U.S. stocks since Election Day peaked on January 25th, when the Dow Jones industrial average reached a historic high of 20,000 points. Despite investor optimism, certain markets remain volatile.



“...and will to the best of my ability, which is terrific ability, by the way. Everyone agrees, I have fantastic ability. So there's no problem with my ability, believe me....”

The Mexican peso has also reflected uncertainty following a dispute between the American and Mexican presidents over funding for a proposed border wall.

Consistent with campaign promises, another one of the new president's first actions included formally withdrawing the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. While President Trump appealed to industrial workers on his anti-trade platform, economists have concluded that this will likely favor non-American firms while increasing China's political influence throughout the Asia-Pacific.

With only one full week served in office, the president has already caused much chaos across the world.

— NG

Sources: on.wsj.com/2jUoX1K, bloom.bg/2kfCvSS

Announcements

- Interested in writing a guest post on our blog? Send Bronson an email at bx5106@psu.edu

Tinder No Longer Worst Dating App

Does the death of the neoliberal free trade consensus have you feeling down? Does a more socially tolerant chief executive like Justin Trudeau sound like a better option?



Why not move to Canada? Of course, you will be leaving many of your friends behind, but you will not be lonely. A Texas-based developer has built maple-match.com, a dating website to link lonely Canadians with Americans fleeing an unfathomable presidency. The company's founder, Joe Goldman, describes Canada as open and tolerant and “building bridges when people are talking about building walls.”

Are you a Trump supporter in a liberal stronghold city like New York or Philadelphia? Don't worry, you too can find a mate with trumpsingles.com. Since Trump's victory, the dating platform has reported a surge in membership to over 26,000 active users. However, the site's founder, David Gross, reports having a troll problem so extensive that he had to hire a team to review every profile for legitimacy.

With extreme partisanship now fostering social polarization, it is no surprise that the dating services industry is attempting to capitalize on of consumer's political preferences. Many apps, however, will be short-lived as political campaigns rise and fall. Some are looking to rebrand and appeal to broader audiences. Berniesingles.com, for instance, is set to relaunch in April as a hub for progressives, and will feature the tagline: “the 1% are not the only ones getting screwed this election season.” — PS

Sources: econ.st/2kabDEf

A Pressing Concern

OP-ED Following his inauguration, President Trump boasted that he drew in the largest crowd in American history. He was wrong. When comparing photos of past inaugural crowds and transit data, it was entirely evident that President Obama's inaugurations dwarfed the ceremony last week. After the media reported factual evidence contradicting the president, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer lamented that the press had purposefully tried to "minimize the enormous support" for the new president. The media refused to back down, and when NBC's Chuck Todd called presidential advisor Kellyanne Conway out on the claim, she retorted that the White House had simply presented "alternative facts."

Before that, Trump had threatened to remove the press corps from its traditional offices in the West Wing, ignored CNN reporter Jim



Acosta during a press conference and then berated him as "fake news," and even campaigned on "opening up the libel laws" to limit the media's criticism.

Hostility toward the media has become a centerpiece of the Trump administration. In the president's own words, the press is "dishonest" and "inaccurate." Yet, even when the media corrects Trump for being dishonest or inaccurate, the press still remains in the wrong in the president's opinion.

This is troubling. The freedom of the press is vital for keeping our democracy functioning. While some reports may harm political agendas, the freedom to publish those stories cannot be obstructed. The absence of dissenting opinion is a sign of authoritarianism, but the United States has a government of laws and not of men. Private citizens may sue against defamation, but public leaders are subject to criticism and facts. The president, however, does not understand that, or the Constitution, for that matter.

While we are only a two-page, seven-person weekly publication, *The Optimal Bundle* could not deliver news to you without the First Amendment. If the president has his way, will our factual reporting on Trump's economically inefficient policies end with the Print Education Committee being sued or sentenced to prison? — BF

Sources: bit.ly/2iPZjvi, wapo.st/2kOlqit, bit.ly/29MZV01

Millennials Less Addicted Than Parents

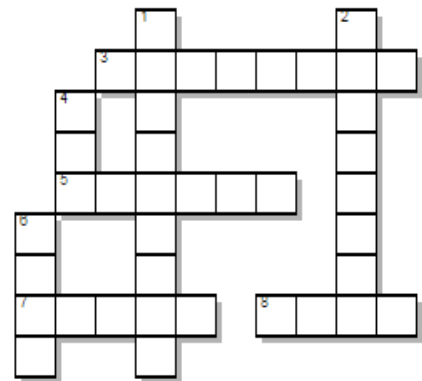
Are millennials the only generation addicted to social media and smart-



phones? A Nielsen report released last week says not. The study found that youth aged 18 to 34, commonly called millennials, spend less time using technology than older generations. Adults aged 35 to 49, typically referred to as Generation X, spent an average of 6 hours and 58 minutes per week on social media. In comparison, millennials averaged 6 hours and 19 minutes a week using social media like Facebook and Twitter. Although the difference may not seem staggering, the report does invalidate some irksome stigmas often directed toward the millennial generation's perceived overuse of technology. Looking at time use, Generation X and the Millennial Generation aren't so different after all. — AC

Sources: bit.ly/2k0MVZJ

Are You Puzzled?



ACROSS

- This company is expected to file for an IPO possibly valued at \$25 billion next week.
- The Trump Administration plans to pay for the border wall with a _____ percent tax on imports.
- What's an example of a public good?
- The unemployment rate is _____ than five percent.

DOWN

- Consumer spending _____ in December.
- FiveThirtyEight predicts this team will win the Superbowl.
- EA's last social was _____.
- Prime Minister Theresa May opted for a _____ Brexit, which will completely cut the UK off from the EU's single market and customs union.