Quvenzhane Wallis isn't sure what she'll do when her hectic time as an Oscar nominee comes to an end. "What does 'hectic' mean?" the 9-year-old star of "Beasts of the Southern Wild" asks with a giggle. Wallis says she has schoolwork to make up ("long division and blah blah blah, stuff like that"), and she can't demand special treatment because she's a leading lady. "If I do," she says, "I'm going to get punished, and then I have to stay after school in detention."

Washington Monuments

THE GOD LOBBY?
By Mark Leibovich

News that Pope Benedict was quitting raised immediate questions in Washington. What lobbying firm would he be joining? Where would he be working? Monetizing his spiritual service? If the former congressman Billy Tauzin could earn $11.6 million as a pharmaceuticals lobbyist, what could his holiness bring in? O.K., maybe not, but here's hoping Benedict will consider doing business in the capital.

Winter Fiction Series

What I'm Drinking Now
By Mario Batali

Giglio is the grape most famous for producing red wines from the Creo region of California. It is the most among the wine. The grapes are often harvested not fully mature in order to maintain bright acidity that protects the wine from aging. The wines are sweet but tannic enough to stand up to the spicy vermicelli with anchovies, hot pepper and bread crumbs that I will make tonight.

Big Important Chart

Nonfiction Authors of the Moment
By Elliot Glazer

1. Tommy Mottola
2. Cissy Houston
3. Al Gore
4. Bill O'Reilly
5. Sonia Sotomayor
6. Liberal Bias

That Should Be a Word
By Lizzie Skurnick

shoeverdose

(SHOW-er-DOSE).

1. To binge-watch a TV series. "A half-finished can of Pringles and an open 'Game of Thrones' Wikipedia page was all Milton needed to see that his wife had spent his business trip shoveling the bathroom again." See also: Nercavate (download a season that hasn't aired).

The Meh List

By Samantha Hening

1. Poplin shirts
2. The H.C.V. lane
3. "Teachable moments"
4. Black Forest ham
5. C.P.M.'s
6. Best original score
7. "Moby-Dick"

Additional reporting by Libby Gary

Submitted by Brian Berenson via Samantha Hening@nytimes.com

BIGGERTIME

MUSIC-BIZ CRACKER

HATERS GONNA HATE

CHECK YOURSELF IN!
By Hope Reeves

If you've been dying for a vacation, consider a trip to Southern Tasmania, Australia. There (pending county approval), you can check into a first-of-its-kind mental-hospital mortuary turned boutique hotel, featuring stone slabs, pullout freezer beds and 1950s surgical instruments scattered about. The Willow Court Motel's Autopsy Suite promises true luxury with a double-wide terrazzo dissection table and stainless-steel soaking tub. "The idea," the hotel's developer, Haydn Pearce, says, "is to give an experience in a morgue before it's too late."

A One-Sentence Book Review

By Tyler Cowen

Depression: A Public Feeling
By Ann Cvetkovich

Aesthetics, anecdotes and evidence against the medical model.

How to Move Past Your Childhood
By Sachi Parker

Honesty, having my own children is what helped me. Whenever they feel any kind of pain, what I wanted to hear as a kid, I say that very thing to them. It seems to help them, and it helps me at the same time. As told to Spencer Bailey