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# Morrison

Continued from Page 1D

ies to type up her manuscript for 1970's "The Bluest Eye" by baking the ladies one of her famous carrot cakes.

## 2. She was castigated by early critics for not writing about white people

In a 1973 review of "Sula," The New York Times criticized Morrison, saying her work was boxed in by her insistence on writing about her own community – without including confrontation with whites. "Toni Morrison is far too talented to remain only a marvelous reporter of the black side of provincial American life," wrote the critic.

In the documentary, Morrison addresses such claims. "I have had reviews in the past that have accused me of not writing about white people ... as though our lives have no meaning and no depth



Oprah Winfrey talks with Toni Morrison at an awards dinner in 2010. FRANK POLICH/GETTY IMAGES

without the white gaze," she says plainly. "I have spent my entire writing life trying to make sure that the white gaze was not the dominant one in any of my books."

## 3. She went on a book tour with Muhammad Ali

While promoting Ali's book "The Greatest: My Own Story," the two got off to a rocky start. "When I first met him

and asked him a question, he would answer and look at a man and never looked directly at me while he was giving the answer. But then I remembered he respects older women," Morrison recalls, saying she realized she should act more like his mother. "So I just crossed my arms as I walked in the room and said, 'Ali, get up from there, you have something to do.' And he would look up and recognize ... a grown-up. And from then on, he did everything I said," she chuckles.

## 4. Oprah got creative trying to get her phone number

After reading "Beloved," Oprah wanted to call Morrison personally, but the famous author's number was unlisted. So the TV star called the fire department and asked for it.

Morrison remembers picking up the phone. "She said, 'Toni Morrison, this is Oprah Winfrey.' I said, 'How did you get my number?' " she laughs. Oprah made her plea to turn "Beloved" into a movie,

ultimately convincing a skeptical Morrison. Oprah made the 1998 film and starred as Sethe, an escaped slave who murders her own daughter rather than see her child returned to a Kentucky plantation to live as a slave.

## 5. Morrison called time's up on equal pay in the 1970s

"Navigating a white male world was not threatening; it wasn't even interesting," says Morrison candidly, recalling her first job as an editor. "I knew more than they did and I wasn't afraid to show it. You have to be a little tough and rely on yourself, and tell people 'no.' "

In her first job, the single mom noticed her male counterparts were getting more money when the raises were given out. "So I went to my boss and I said, 'You didn't raise me as much as my colleagues who are men.' He said, 'Yes, but.' And I said, 'I don't want to hear 'but.' I want to tell you something: I am head of the household. Just. Like. You.' She got the money.

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# PUZZLES

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### CROSSWORD

EDITED Fred Piscop  
BY Lynn Lempel

## TAVERN KEEPERS

**ACROSS**  
1 Slowly, on a score  
6 Kid around with  
10 Not a thing  
14 Sign for many April births  
15 Predator in a pod  
16 Hard-to-cheat-on test  
17 Bankers' IDs, redundantly  
19 What snobs put on Quakers or Shakers  
20 Money in the bank, e.g.  
22 Post-WWII alliance  
23 Anthem beginning  
25 Some fish in sushi  
27 On the \_\_\_\_\_ (fleeing)  
29 California governor elected in 2018  
35 Little rapsallion  
36 Channel watched in man caves  
37 Cousin of a prairie  
38 Thailand neighbor  
40 Compete like Lindsey Vonn  
42 React like a spooked horse  
43 Sprinkle with holy oil  
46 "Taking Eve" novelist Johansen  
49 Whitney with a gin  
50 Skipper of the Nautilus  
52 When a one-hr. clock adjustment occurs  
53 Raw recruit  
54 "Hey, over here"  
56 Responder to iPhone requests  
59 Place to call home  
62 Cupid, to the Greeks  
65 Utterly spellbound  
66 usatoday.com, e.g.  
68 Have a bite

**DOWN**  
1 The 200 at Indy  
2 Lake bordering four states  
3 Total dimwit  
4 Nomads' dwellings  
5 The Buckeyes' sch.  
6 Wozniak's partner at Apple  
7 Sources of metals  
8 ATM feature  
9 Goes like lightning  
10 Reason to hang up  
11 Diva's big moment  
12 Tranq gun missile  
13 "Besides that ..."  
18 Mexican pyramid builders  
24 Whiskey bottle datum  
26 Net judge's call

69 Cheese that hardens with age  
70 Molded garnish  
71 "Gosh darnit!"  
72 Jan. 1 song word  
73 Gets the better of

27 Shade like lavender  
28 Frigidaire competitor  
30 Second bananas (Abbr.)  
31 Complete, as a comic strip  
32 Radar guns' sites  
33 Outback gemstones  
34 Reason for a promotion  
39 "Be patient!"  
41 Fit-to-be-tied feeling  
44 Opponent's shout  
45 Verbal onslaughts  
47 JFK Library architect  
48 "I need help!"  
51 Event planner's nightmarish turnout  
55 Have a hunch  
56 Castle-building stuff

57 Borodin's opera prince  
58 Boycott-sparking Parks  
60 Arabian Sea sultanate  
61 Title for Judi Dench  
63 Miss, in a way  
64 Brief times, briefly  
67 Slap the cuffs on

**Monday's Answer**  
SLED BEAM CAMEO  
HOPIT INCA OCALA  
UFOS GEAR STIFF  
TAXICOMMISSION  
STY PAY EGRESS  
ARC BEEN VIA  
TARA FEET VENT  
WEIGHT ALLOWANCE  
HERO AMOS ANTE  
OUR SKEW ICE  
APFEECE ARK CAT  
FRENCH ROYALTY  
ALLEN RAIN LOOP  
NIECE ELSE PANE  
TESTS WEED SKED

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### WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 6/18

Find and Circle:  
Four land formations  
Three six-letter colors  
Two countries starting with P  
\_\_\_\_\_ in "The Natural"  
\_\_\_\_\_ movie (six-letter answers)

Monday's answer: TANGERINE ORANGE LEMON LIME / MYSTERY SPORTS NEWS / RABBIT JAGUAR IMPALA / RINGO STARR / REAR WINDOW

---

### QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes 6/18

NBA officials  
Know-it-\_\_\_\_\_  
Stride pace  
MLB officials  
Spaghetti sauce brand  
Jack or Jason  
Turn over  
Speed-of-sound passenger jets

**Monday's Answer**  
GANG  
IRON  
LIGA  
LAST

**QUICKCROSS ON YOUR PHONE**  
[puzzles.usatoday.com](http://puzzles.usatoday.com)

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### SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

2	4	9	6					
		2	4	7	5			
		3	1				6	
5	1	9	7	2				
4	7	8	3	5				
	3	6	7	1	8			
3			5	6				
		8	7	2	1			
			3	9	6	8		

6/18 **SUDOKU FUSION ON YOUR PHONE**  
[puzzles.usatoday.com](http://puzzles.usatoday.com)

### UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 6/18

**1. VARSITY**

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_

**WEST**

Clues:  
1. 1999 football movie  
2. Jazzy group of musicians  
3. WWII series: "\_\_\_\_ Brothers"  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ use (worthless)  
5. "Not a chance"  
6. Exit  
7. Vancouver, to Toronto

**Monday's Answer**  
STOOD  
STILL  
STANDING  
WATER  
TABLE  
LEG  
BONE  
MARROR

**PLAY ONLINE**  
[PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM](http://PUZZLES.USATODAY.COM)

---

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

	3		5		
	5	2	4		6
3			6		4
4		5			3
5		3	1	6	
		6		4	

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★☆☆☆  
**Monday's Answers**

3	7	2	4	9	1	6	5	8
6	8	4	3	2	5	7	1	9
9	5	1	8	6	7	3	2	4
2	1	6	7	8	4	9	3	5
5	9	7	2	3	6	4	8	1
8	4	3	1	5	9	2	6	7
1	3	8	9	7	2	5	4	6
7	2	5	6	4	8	1	9	3
4	6	9	5	1	3	8	7	2

6/17

### TXTPERT

Across  
1. 472669  
5. 6262  
6. 64323  
7. 23678  
10. 23858

Down  
1. 47263766  
2. 228352  
3. 6263  
4. 3327  
8. 323  
9. 725

Today's theme: Friends and family

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.  
For example: 2 could be A, B or C, and 5/6/7/8 could be LOST

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

### DON'T QUOTE ME

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.  
BROUGHT CHANGE ONLY PROGRESS THING WORLD YET THIS INSIGHT.

“THE \_\_\_\_\_ HATES \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ IT IS THE \_\_\_\_\_ THAT HAS \_\_\_\_\_”

6/18

Monday's Answer: "If I'd known I was gonna live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself." - Eubie Blake

# Pressure to win at UCLA little concern to Cronin

Scott Gleeson  
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — Mick Cronin knows about all of the skepticism.

News reports that he wasn't UCLA's first choice as a new head basketball coach. Message boards that balk at his lack of NCAA tournament success at Cincinnati. Pundits who believe his grit-over-flair style won't win over a hard-to-satisfy fan base.

"You know what? It doesn't matter. I don't give a (expletive) about that (expletive)," Cronin told USA TODAY.

The 47-year-old isn't the censoring type, and he has no plans to sugarcoat anything — to the media, unrelenting boosters or his players — in this new high-pressure job, which he acknowledges has national title-or-bust expectations.

"The noise is louder here," Cronin says, "just like it's louder at Kentucky, louder at North Carolina and louder at Duke. It's a (blueblood). I deflect criticism and focus on the job. I stay oblivious to it on purpose, and it's liberating. If you want your players to block it out, you have to live it yourself."

Cronin is two months into a dream job on a coaching trajectory that began as a junior varsity high school coach at Woodward (Ohio) High School — when a then 21-year-old Cronin would drive single-parent kids home and scrape up car change for the 5-for-\$5 deal at Arby's along the way.

"As much as I want to win it all here, and I'm in Beverly Hills and all that, it's not going to change who I am as a man and what I'm about," Cronin says. "That's what my players will see in me — not the coach who's on TV yelling at his players, the one who cares about them individually and collectively. The one who will be honest with them and have their back."

Cronin sits in an empty office with bare walls and a previous coach's furniture. In one breath he informs assistant coach Michael Lewis (who followed him from Cincinnati along with associate head coach Darren Savino) that's he's nearing a close on a new home to live in as a single parent with his 12-year-old daughter, Samantha. In another breath, he's spitballing an idea to his office assistant about a barbecue for the athletic staff to grow camaraderie. He pinballs from topic to topic about the future, as if he didn't just sign a six-year contract for one of the hardest jobs in America.

"Obviously, my goal is to turn this into a winning program, always competing for (Pac-12) conference championships and then winning national championships," Cronin says. "But how it looks on the outside — that this is an impossible job to please the fans — trust me when I say I'll go 10 times harder on myself if I can't win. This idea that I'll feel like we have to win because everybody else wants us to win is a fallacy. We're the ones who are doing this every damn day, who are moving our families across the country. As much as fans want certain things, they don't want it more than we do as coaches and players."

Although his tunnel vision is on the 2019-20 season, Cronin admits to googling "UCLA coach" quite often — for the



New UCLA men's basketball coach Mick Cronin previously held the top job at Murray State and then Cincinnati.  
KIRBY LEE/USA TODAY SPORTS

one whose statue is outside Pauley Pavilion as a symbol of the greatness from 10 national championships.

"John Wooden sure as hell wouldn't be looking at message boards or blogs to see how people felt about him or his program," Cronin says with a smirk. "And I won't either."

Wooden's towering legacy has made decent coaching tenures — Steve Alford led UCLA to three Sweet 16 appearances in five-plus seasons before a December firing — seem unworthy. Cronin replaced Alford as the 10th full-time coach in Westwood since Wooden was on the sidelines from 1948 to 1975.

There's been plenty of winning in the years since Wooden retired: The Hall of Famer's nine predecessors won 70% of their games while reaching six Final Fours and winning one national title. But the last five UCLA coaches have all been fired for not meeting expectations, including the program's second-winningest coach, Ben Howland, who led the Bruins to three consecutive Final Fours from 2006 to 2008.

Cronin sees Wooden's shadow as more of a gift than a curse, however.

"I caught an interview where Coach Wooden was asked about the pressures of those who were following in his footsteps," Cronin says. "He said only the guy who immediately preceded him (Gene Bartow) would have to deal with that. For anybody else, it's something they have to reconcile within themselves. If they can't do that, it's their own mistake. I think I've come to this program knowing who I am, what I can do and really everything else I've done leading up to this has got me here."

Cronin knows his 13-season resume at Cincinnati — which included a .670 winning percentage and top-three finishes in all six of the Bearcats' seasons in the American Athletic Conference — was missing a deep NCAA tournament run (his Bearcats advanced past the first weekend once, in 2012, despite nine consecutive appearances and being seeded sixth or higher five times). But he says he often tells former players and aspiring coaches to "never let someone else define your success."

"I'm not a sentimental guy," Cronin says of his tenure leading the Bearcats. "I'm a life's a journey kind of guy. I feel

like I did everything I was hired to do (at Cincinnati) except take them to a Final Four or win a title. In my business, you can't live by that. For years, (Virginia) caught no breaks and then bang, they win it all. You put yourself in a position to win a title, and that's what you can control."

"At Cincinnati, I felt like I raised the Titanic. It was dead in every aspect. Not only was it buried, it was buried beneath the greatest conference — the 16-team Big East. In six years we went from last to playing for the title (in 2012). When you're coaching in a league that's like the NBA every night, it's like the world is caving in on you. ... Coaching in that league, when you've got Syracuse, Connecticut, Louisville, Georgetown, Pitt ... that prepared me for this chapter I'm in now."

Except this next chapter will see UCLA play in a Pac-12 Conference that last season ranked last among power conferences in the NCAA's new metric, the NET. UCLA lost to mid-major Liberty, an outcome that ultimately prompted Alford's firing before a 17-16 finish.

Cronin inherits a team with an interesting mix of returning and incoming talent. Among the players who are looking to turn a new chapter are red-shirt sophomores Jalen Hill and Cody Riley, two of the players involved in a shoplifting incident in China that drew national attention and led to former guard LiAngelo Ball leaving the team.

One area Alford excelled in was recruiting — with three consecutive top-five recruiting classes (2016, '17 and '18), according to Rivals. Cronin says he expects to coach a mix of chip-on-their-shoulder players who develop into All-Americans as he did at Cincinnati along with the five-star talent.

"We tried to recruit five-star guys at Cincinnati. We just never got them," Cronin says. "Obviously, I came here for a lot of reasons. The recruiting is easier. The real reason is there's a better chance to cut the nets down that you don't have at other places."

"I've always been about keeping your eye on the ball or you're not a good hitter. That's a little harder to do here, but I'm going to do everything in my power to get the job done."

# NBA teams sensitive to 'owner' use

AJ Neuharth-Keusch  
USA TODAY

NBA commissioner Adam Silver says teams across the league are moving away from classifying their highest-ranking executive as an "owner."

"I don't want to overreact to the term, because as I've said earlier, people end up twisting themselves into knots avoiding the use of the word," Silver said in a recent interview with TMZ. "We moved away from that term years ago at the league. We call our team owners 'governor' of the team and 'alternate governor.'"

"I think it makes sense. ... You'll find the word throughout memos over the past decade in the NBA. But I'm sensitive to it and I think teams are moving away from the term (and) will stick with using 'governor.'"

While many teams use terms such as "governor," "chairman" and "CEO," a handful — including the Warriors and Rockets — still use the term "owner" in the staff directory of their official team media guides. The 76ers, meanwhile, list their executives as "managing partner" and "co-managing partner."

Silver said he's seen mixed reactions from players regarding the use of the term, which has been criticized by many over the years for having racial connotations.

"A few players have actually spoken out in saying the greatest thing that ever happened was when Michael Jordan was able to call himself an owner (of the Hornets)," he said.

Silver also said "I completely respect" when players are against the term, including Warriors forward Draymond Green, who has spoken out about it on multiple occasions.

In 2017, Green had a back and forth with Mark Cuban, who's listed as "owner" on the Mavericks' media guide, after Green wrote on Instagram that "to be owned by someone just sets a bad precedent."

Cuban responded, telling ESPN that Green "owes the NBA an apology" for his comments. "To try to create some connotation that owning equity in a company that you busted your ass for is the equivalent of ownership in terms of people, that's just wrong. That's just wrong in every which way."

"People who read that message and misinterpret it — make it seem like we don't do everything possible to help our players succeed and don't care about their families and don't care about their lives, like hopefully we do for all of our employees — that's just wrong."

Green, while speaking at Harvard University, responded to Cuban, saying that his intention was to "start a conversation that may need to be had."

"When you look at Mark Cuban, for instance, with the whole equity thing. We all can own equity and that's fine. But Mark Cuban will never know or understand how it feels for me, a young, black, African American, to turn on the TV and see what happened in Charlottesville."

"It's not to take a shot at the owners of these entities. It's more so trying to help spark change to help others that may be similar to me."

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