
From: Gregory Brown <[REDACTED]>
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To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: Greg Brown's Weekend Reading and Other Things.... 09/28/2014
Attachments: Untitled attachment 00335.docx; Bill Bojangles Robinson bio.docx; Untitled attachment 00338.docx; Creedence Clearwater Revival bio.docx

DEAR FRIEND.....

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Just released U.S. Census Bureau data reveal 45.3 million people were poor in America in 2013. One in three of those who are poor is a child. Children remain our poorest age group and children of color and those under five are the poorest. More than one in five infants, toddlers, and preschoolers were poor during their years of greatest brain development and vulnerability. Black children saw no decrease and continue to have the highest child poverty rates in the nation. In 20 states more than 40 percent of Black children were poor and nearly one in five Black children were living in extreme poverty with an annual income of less than half of the poverty level or \$33 a day for a family of four. Although the percentage of poor children dropped in 2013 for the first time since 2000, from 21.8 percent (16.6 million) in 2012 to 19.9 percent (14.7 million), there were still 1.3 million more poor children than in 2007 before the recession began.

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=p style="font-size:12pt;line-height:17.1199989318848px;font-family:Georgia,serif">It is a moral disgrace that child poverty in the U.S. is higher than adult poverty, higher than for children in almost all other competitive nations, and higher than our country with the world's largest economy should ever allow. Wealth and income inequality are still at record high levels and opportunity gaps are widening. What values and priorities do these unjust realities reflect? Isn't it time to reset our moral and economic compass? If we want to build a strong workforce, military, and economy and ensure the most basic tenets of opportunity for the most vulnerable, we must and can end child poverty now.

Poverty hurts children and destroys their dreams, hopes, and opportunities. Poor children are more likely to go hungry, which is associated with lower reading and math scores, greater physical and mental health problems, higher incidence of emotional and behavioral problems, and a greater chance of obesity. Poor children are less likely to have access to affordable quality health coverage, have more severe health problems, and fare worse than higher income children with the same problems. =C2

A poor child with asthma is more likely to be reported in poor health, spend more days in bed, and have more hospital episodes than a high-income child with asthma. Poor children suffer a 30 million word interaction gap by age 3 and are

less likely to enter school ready to learn and to graduate from high school. One study found children who were poor for half of their childhood were nearly 90 percent more likely to enter their 20s without completing high school than never poor children.

Child poverty increases the risk of unemployment and economic hardship in adulthood. Those who experienced poverty at any point during their childhood were more than three times as likely to be poor at age 30 as those who were never poor as children. The longer a child is poor, the greater the risk of poverty in adulthood and experiencing poverty as a child also increases the likelihood of lifelong health problems and involvement in the criminal justice system. Child poverty scars some children for life.

Child poverty has huge economic costs for the nation. Year after year the lost productivity and extra health and criminal justice costs associated with it add up to roughly half a trillion dollars, or 3.8 percent of our nation's gross domestic product (GDP). What we can never measure though are the countless innovations and discoveries and contributions that did not occur for our nation because children's potentials were stunted by poverty.

It does not have to be this way. Child poverty is not an act of God. It is the choices of men and women and we can change it. Child poverty can be ended and prevented if we want to.

Poverty rates change over time with the economy and with changes in government policies. The U.S. has made substantial progress in reducing poverty over the past 50 years despite worsening inequality and increased unemployment. Child poverty dropped 36 percent between 1967 and 2012 when income from tax credits and in-kind benefits like nutrition and housing assistance are counted. Ending child poverty would save lives and money and increase productivity. For example, eliminating child poverty between the prenatal years and age 5 would increase lifetime earnings between \$53,000 and \$100,000 per child, for a total lifetime benefit of \$20 to \$36 billion for children born in a given year. When are we going to gain enough moral, common and economic sense to treat our children justly and give all of them a level playing field upon which to grow? Children have only one childhood and it is today. Chilean Nobel laureate Gabriela Mistral said, "We are guilty of many errors and many faults, but our worst crime is abandoning the children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many of the things we need can wait. The child cannot. Right now is the time his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, and his senses are being developed. To him we cannot answer 'Tomorrow.' His name is today." Given that the U.S. has been blessed with great wealth and high ideals which we need to live up to and given the high costs we incur from child poverty every year, how can our country not act to end child poverty now?

Bill
Rabinson

While researching a piece on So You Think You Can Dance earlier this month, one of the pioneers in American dance is the incomparable Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (May 25, 1878 – November 25, 1949) who was an American tap dancer and actor, the best known and most highly paid African American entertainer in the first half of the twentieth century. His long career mirrored changes in American entertainment tastes and technology, starting in the age of minstrel shows, moving to vaudeville, Broadway, the recording industry, Hollywood radio, and television. According to dance critic Marshall Stearns, "Robinson's contribution to tap dance is exact and specific. He brought it up on its toes, dancing upright and swinging," giving tap a "...heretofore-unknown lightness and presence." His signature routine was the stair dance, in which Robinson would tap up and down a set of stairs in a rhythmically complex sequence of steps, a routine that he unsuccessfully attempted to patent. Robinson is also credited with having introduced a new word, copacetic, into popular culture via his repeated use of it in vaudeville and radio appearances.

Bill Bojangles Robinson and Shirley Temple from "The Little Colonel" (1935): <http://youtu.be/AjCFYpWDMfM> <http://youtu.be/AjCFYpWDMfM>

Bill Bojangles Robinson teaches Shirley Temple

http://youtu.be/QqCX=N2V_jU

A popular figure in both the black and white entertainment worlds of his era, he is best known today for his dancing with Shirley Temple in a series of films during the 1930s, and for starring in the musical Stormy Weather (1943), loosely based on Robinson's own life, and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry. Robinson used his popularity to challenge and overcome numerous racial barriers, becoming:

• one of the first minstrel and vaudeville performers to appear without the use of blackface makeup

• one of the earliest African American performers to go solo, overcoming vaudeville's two colored rule

• a headliner in the first African-American Broadway show, Blackbirds of 1928

• the first African American to appear in a Hollywood film in an interracial dance team (with Temple in The Little Colonel),

• the first African American to headline a mixed-race Broadway production

During his lifetime and afterwards, Robinson also came under heavy criticism for his participation in and tacit acceptance of racial stereotypes of the era, with critics calling him an Uncle Tom figure. Robinson deeply resented such criticism, and his biographers suggested that critics were at best incomplete in making such a characterization, especially given his efforts to overcome the racial prejudice of his era. In his public life Robinson led efforts to:

· persuade the Dallas police department to hire its first African American policemen

=C2* lobby President Roosevelt during World War II for more equitable treatment of African American soldiers

=p> · =C2 stage the first integrated public event in Miami, a fundraiser which, with the permission of the mayor, was attended by both black and white city residents

=font color="#000000">Despite being the highest-paid black performer of the era, Robinson died penniless in 1949, and his funeral was paid for by longtime friend Ed Sullivan. Robinson is remembered for the support he gave to fellow performers, including Fred Astaire, Lena Horne, Jesse Owens, and the Nicholas brothers. Both Sammy Davis, Jr. and Ann Miller credit him as a teacher and mentor, and Miller credits him with having "changed the course of my life." Gregory Hines produced and starred in a biographical movie about Robinson for which he won the NAACP Best actor Award. In 1989, the U.S. Congress designated May 25, Robinson's birthday, as National Tap Dance Day.

Robinson was born in Richmond, Virginia and raised in its Jackson Ward neighborhood. His parents were Maxwell, a machine-shop worker, and Maria Robinson, a choir singer. His grandmother raised him after both parents died in 1885 when he was 7 years old — his father from chronic heart disease and his mother from natural causes. Details of Robinson's early life are known only through legend, much of it perpetuated by Robinson himself. He claimed he was christened "Luther" — a name he did not like. He suggested to his younger brother Bill that they should exchange names. Eventually, the exchange between the names of both brothers was made. The brother subsequently adopted the name of "Percy" and under that name achieved recognition as a musician.

Although Robinson was successful despite the obstacle of racism one of his favorite anecdotes was that one day he seated himself in a restaurant and a customer objected to his presence. When the manager suggested that it might be better if Robinson leave, he smiled and asked, "Have you got a ten dollar bill?" Politely asking to borrow the manager's note for a moment, Robinson added six \$10 bills from his own wallet and mixed them up, then extended the seven bills together, adding, "Here, let's see you pick out the colored one". The restaurant manager served Robinson without further delay.

Despite earning and spending a fortune, his memories of surviving the streets as a child never left him, prompting many acts of generosity. In 1933, while in his hometown of Richmond, he saw two children caught between the heat of traffic to retrieve their ball. There was no stoplight at the intersection: Robinson went to the city and provided the money to have one installed. In 1973, a statue of "Bojangles", sculpted by Jack Witt, at the intersection of Adams and West Leigh Streets, was established in a small park at the intersection.

Bojangles co-founded the New York Black Yankees baseball team in Harlem in 1936 with financier James "Soldier Boy" Semler. The team was a successful member of the Negro National League until it disbanded in 1948, after Major League Baseball was desegregated. In 1989, a joint U.S. Senate/House resolution declared "National Tap Dance Day" to be May 25, the anniversary of Bill Robinson's birth. Robinson was inducted into the National Museum of Dance's Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt-Whitney Hall of Fame in 1987. Bill "Bojangles" Robinson like to say that he could run backward faster than most men could go forward. Whether or not this is true is unimportant because the both raise the bar and broke down the racial barriers making the world the better place which is all that we should ever ask.

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<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&a=p;ik=875c48a476&view=att&th=1489e92bdb3f6c70&attid=0.0=1&disp=emb&realattid=ii_1487bb3693cea8bb&zw>

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The world should be ashamed that there are more than 51 million fellow human beings who have been forcibly displaced from their homes by conflict and human rights abuse. It is the highest number recorded since the refugee crisis following World War II. As we are now approaching mid-September 2014, we do not know exactly how many men, women and children have been forced to flee their homes. What we do know is that the number is dramatically higher than at the start of the year. There has been a relentless upward trend in enforced displacement the last ten years. In 2013, as many as 33.3 million people were displaced within their own country, up from 28.8 million the previous year. C2 While globally, the number of refugees who had crossed an international border rose from 16.4 to 17.9 million. The previous post-war peak was reached in 1995, when the wars in the Balkans and genocide in Rwanda and Eastern Congo caused millions to flee.

Relief worker experienced in the field of humanitarian relief and human rights working in major wars and disaster zones say that they have never seen so many crises at the same time. News of civilians massacred, entire city neighborhoods enveloped in flames and hundreds of thousands of people displaced have come to us from Syria, Iraq and Gaza, from the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ukraine, Nigeria and Yemen. Aid workers and journalists have been caught and killed in the crossfire together with the civilian population. </=pan>

The total collapse in stability and state structures have come faster than most expected. Less than a decade ago more than a million Iraqi refugees fled that country's civil war and poured into Syria. At that time, Syria was viewed as a stable country to reside in. Today, Syria tops the list of displacements. The neighboring countries of Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Northern Iraq have taken the primary responsibility of giving more than three million Syrian refugees access to their territories.

Despite the fact that the largest humanitarian crisis in decades is unfolding right outside the European continent, the willingness to take and distribute responsibility among the European countries is lacking. C2 While Sweden since September 2013 has given asylum to large numbers of Syrians who have managed to get to the country and given them and their families' permanent residence, most other European countries have done their utmost to avoid giving a safe haven to desperate Syrians.

The refugees and humanitarian crises of the Middle East, Afghanistan and Colombia are well known to most. But it came as a surprise even to the experts of international relations that Nigeria now constitutes one of the epicenters of displacement. As many as 3.3 million people are internally displaced in Nigeria, the third highest worldwide. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, a research institution part of my organization, the Norwegian Refugee Council, was this year for the first time able to present figures from Nigeria confirmed even by the government.

The people fled their homes in Nigeria because of conflict, violence and neglect that have been built up over a number of years. The neglect is shared by both the national government and the international community. Nobody really cared enough to focus on what happened in North-Eastern Nigeria where Boko Haram and other armed actors could do seemingly whatever they wanted to defenseless civilians. Too often it is not objective needs that determine who gets our attention and who does not. But a selective humanism is not human, and we should give the same minimum amount of attention, assistance and action to all refugees, wherever they are.

More than one third of the world's internally displaced -- about 12.5 million refugees -- are located in sub-Saharan Africa. The Central African Republic is one of the examples of the humanitarian and political crisis that long-term neglect can lead to. The U.N. and humanitarian partners have only managed to cover part of the resources needed for life-saving relief in the country. It is a recipe for cementing the emergency situation into a permanent crisis. This again reinforces the neglect, because a protracted crisis gets even less attention and resources than an exploding emergency. This is the sad reality of the Horn of Africa and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where millions of displaced people are trapped in abject poverty.

Aid workers say that the situation is not hopeless. With resources from the U.S., the E.U., Scandinavians and other good donors, emergency relief has in recent years become more effective and cost-efficient even in the most extreme of circumstances. Mortality rate in emergencies are down and nutrition, sanitation and education better, compared to what they were a decade or two ago. This progress is now under threat. The extreme number and scale of humanitarian crises are placing unprecedented demands on the international aid system, and humanitarian resources and capacity are becoming dangerously overstretched. We need to rethink our priorities and approach.

Aid workers say that more than anything, we can and must enable more people to get out of their hopelessness. Too many people fleeing conflicts or natural disasters become trapped in protracted crises. We may save lives and increase handouts, but we fail to provide durable solutions. We need political leaders that are able to create stable societies where human rights and the rule of law can enable economic growth and employment for the displaced children we now give school. Relief and development actors need to work more hand in hand.

We cannot keep returning again and again with emergency aid. Millions of Afghan refugees have been in exile for more than three decades. The enormous sums spent on security, development and humanitarian aid in Afghanistan have so far given no hope to the grandchildren born to those who fled in the 1970s and 80s and who are still living in camps. In Gaza, schools will have to be rebuilt for the third time after the third war in six years. This failure of local, regional and international political and diplomatic work costs too much suffering and too many resources. Aid workers say that we must break the vicious cycle. The average refugee crisis lasts more than a decade and that few refugees find a durable solution. We need to find ways to meet today's emergency needs and build hope of a better future for refugee youth. Otherwise, they may determine that their only way out is to join the ranks of the extremists. And we will continue to set new horrific records.

We have to stop allowing our elected representatives to mislead and as President Obama would describe, "say stupid things" whichever political party or for whatever reason. Case in point is Rep. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), above in a campaign ad for his race for the Senate – "E2 When President Obama hijacked the farm bill, turned it into a food stamp bill, with billions more in spending, I voted no. Career politicians love attaching bad ideas to good ones. Then the bad ideas become law—and you pay for it." Cotton, who is in a tight race against incumbent Sen. Mark Pryor (D), has come under fire in the state for being the only Arkansas lawmaker, Republican or Democrat, to vote against the final version of farm bill. So he explained his vote as a matter of principle, blaming President Obama for "hijacking" it and turning it "into a food stamp bill with billions more in spending."

Web Link: <http://youtu.be/q47stRkYoO8>

First of all, it is a bit of risky gambit, Cotton who has served one term in the House after a military career – seems to also be labeling even his fellow GOP legislators as "career politicians." Cotton office's explanation offered by Cotton spokesman David Ray: The House of Representatives passed two bills – a farm-only farm bill and a food stamp-only bill – both of which Cotton supported. But then he said that Obama threatened to veto the food stamp bill unless it was "loaded up with food stamps." Not only that, but Ray said that the level of food stamps has exploded under Obama.

Except that there is just one problem with this story. Food stamps (now formally called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) have been part of the farm bill for decades. It is a perfect marriage of convenience between urban lawmakers (who cared about the food stamps) and rural lawmakers (who cared about the farm bill), who working together could ensure that the benefits important to their constituents were regularly enacted into law. The practice actually dates back to the Great Depression, when the first farm bill was passed and surplus crops and other food products were distributed to people who needed assistance. In the current era, food stamps has been paired with every farm bill since 1973, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The truth is that it is such a tradition that Obama did not really have to threaten a veto, as the Democratic-controlled Senate made it clear it would not accept separating food stamps from farm programs. That's why the House ultimately accepted and passed a combined bill earlier this year. Then look at the dictionary definition of hijacking: "to steal or rob...to subject to extortion or swindling." Is that what Obama did when he said that Congress should continue to do what it did in the past? Or was breaking up the farm bill the more radical step? The most problematic aspect of Cotton's ad is that he suggests that attaching food stamps to the farm bill was a new idea— something that he was fighting against. But that's invented history. This "bad idea" has been in place since before Cotton, 37, was born.

Some fact on the farm side: 21 million Americans produce, process and sell food and fiber. U.S. farms and ranches spent \$329 billion to produce \$388 billion in goods in 2012. America exported \$136 billion in farm goods in 2011, with a \$37 billion trade surplus. Americans spend 10% of their incomes on food – the lowest of any country. Spending on farm policy including crop insurance was down 20% over the past five years. The world population will grow from 7 billion to 9 billion by 2050. Farmers will need to double food production by 2050 to keep pace. To do the job, there are only 210,000 full-time U.S. farms, which produce 80% of our food and fiber. For every \$1 spent on food, farmers receive less than 12 cents for the raw products.

Cotton's ad highlights the fact that food stamp spending in the bill amounted to \$740 billion over 10 years. But the final farm bill contained a relatively modest \$8 billion cut (over 10 years) in food stamps — though that was less than the \$39 billion reduction contained in the first bill passed by the House. Moreover, it is worth noting that the increase in food stamp spending started in part because of changes in the food stamp program under President George W. Bush, when Congress overrode his veto of the 2008 farm bill. That law boosted the purchasing power of food stamps by indexing key elements to inflation.

Currently there are more than 47 million Americans up from 33 million five years ago. This number is now more than 20% of America's households. For fiscal year 2013, the SNAP program cost \$79,641,880,000, which is a 164% increase over the past decade. When adjusted for inflation, the cost of the SNAP program was \$30,153,090,000 in fiscal year 2003. During the last five years, the SNAP program grew by 36.8%, from \$58,223,790,000 in 2009 to \$79,641,880,000 in 2013. Most importantly it is estimated that 47% of all Food Stamp beneficiaries are children under the age of 18.

The Washington Post Pignocchio Test

Cotton would be on more solid ground if he had looked into the camera and said that, despite a tradition of merging food stamps in the farm bill, he was tired of the politics as usual and took a firm stand against the longstanding practice. Instead, he uses President Obama as a straw man, suggesting the president purposely pushed Congress in a different direction. By creating a fantasy version of history, Cotton certainly sounds like a career politician. Because of both

the=facts and Cotton's self-righteous tone The Washington Post award him a solid Four out of FOUR..... othe=wise a BIG LIE..... And this type of my behavior is my =ant of the week.....

FOUR Pinocchios

WEEK's READINGS

Beyond ISIS and Ukraine: What Else Happened This Summer

5 overlooked sto=ies that could reshape world affairs

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Syria, Ukraine, Ga=a, Iraq, ISIS, Ebola—the list of this past summer's disasters is long. But buried among the tragic headlines and breaking news are other events that attracted less attention but could be just as consequential for global affa=rs. Here are five to watch.

1) The fall of oil prices. Over the summer oil prices dropped to the lowest level in a year. The f=uctuation alone is nothing special. What is remarkable, however, is that this drop occurred amid severe sanctions against Russia and wars in the Middle East and Ukraine—in other wor=s, at a time when crude-oil prices should be soaring. What's going on? The =nergy revolution taking place in the United States has reached sufficient scale w=ere it is beginning to alter international dynamics. The U.S. has overtaken Sau=i Arabia and Russia to become the world's main oil-producing nation. =n August, U.S. monthly oil production was at its highest level since 1986. Meanwhile,=the anemic global economy is not generating as much demand for energy as it did during the booming years that preceded the Great Recession that started in 2008. The combination of greater supply and weaker demand is pulling prices down and having a much larger effect than the upward push created by the current geopolitical instability. This summer we witnessed a clear manifestation of an incipient and potentially transformative energy order.<=span>

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2) The worst American drought in more than a century. The western United States, Mexico, and Central America have gone three years with very little rainfall, and the situation grew dire this summer. Sixty percent of California is now experiencing "exceptional drought," the most extreme category according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The volume of water lost by lack of rain and snow could cover the entire area stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast with four inches of water. California's three largest reservoirs are at roughly 30-percent capacity and a new study from the University of California, Davis estimates that the current drought will cost the state \$2.2 billion in damages and 17,000 jobs. The west's severe drought wasn't this summer's only climatic surprise. "2014 has not been typical," reports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Never before have such large areas of the country experienced such radically different temperature extremes as they have so far this year. (The map below shows just how divergent temperature patterns were across the contiguous United States between January and July 2014.)

January - July 2014 Minimum Temperature Rankings

Minimum temperature rankings for January-July, 2014. Red is record warmest, dark blue record coolest.

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The summer brought extreme climatic events in other countries as well: India and Pakistan, for instance, were ravaged by the heaviest torrential rains in half a century, which left at least 420 people dead and forced 47,000 to evacuate their homes.

3) The slowdown of Europe's economy. This summer confirmed that the sluggish recovery of Europe's economies has stalled. During the first half of the year, we learned that economic activity had stagnated in France and declined in Germany and Italy. There have been some bright spots: The Spanish economy is growing and the European Central Bank is adopting a policy that its chief, Mario Draghi, has dubbed "Whatever It Takes"—meaning that he is willing to use all the monetary tools at his disposal to stimulate eurozone economies. But he cannot accomplish this goal by himself, and monetary policy alone won't revive Europe's faltering economies. Structural reforms and fiscal policies that energize consumers and investors are needed, much talked about, and, so far, not adopted. Meanwhile, the all-important German economy is sputtering and analysts are divided about which large European economy—France or Italy—is more likely to implode first. This summer, the specter of deflation also arose in Europe, as a chronic fall in prices mixed dangerously with high levels of debt. Deflation is a difficult trap to escape: Japan has been struggling to break free from it for more than two decades. The summer of 2014 could be remembered as the time when deflation first gripped Europe.

4) The rise of Federica Mogherini. In November, Mogherini will replace Catherine Ashton as the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, the continent's top foreign-policy job. In that position, the 41-year old Mogherini, who was appointed in August, will negotiate the perilous situations in Russia, Ukraine, Iran, North Africa, the Middle East, and China. She will also preside over the Foreign Affairs Council, which is comprised of Europe's 27 foreign ministers, and direct the European External Action Service, a fiendishly complicated bureaucracy of 3,500 diplomats scattered throughout the world. And what is Mogherini's main qualification? Six months as Italy's foreign minister. Most experts agree that she is woefully unprepared for such an important post. For example, Paola Subacchi of London's Chatham House writes:

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No one doubts that Mogherini will try her best to learn the nitty-gritty of her new job, but it will be like learning to fly by piloting a jumbo jet. Most of the time, an inexperienced pilot can avoid serious problems by relying on her more experienced crew and various technologies. But in the event of severe turbulence, only a pilot with sufficient skill and practice will be able to maintain control of the aircraft and keep the passengers calm.

So it is disturbing, to say the least, that with Ukraine at war with Russia, and the Middle East in a spiraling crisis of fanaticism, Europe's leaders did not seek a candidate with a proven ability to forge an effective foreign policy from different—and often opposite—positions. EU foreign policy is now being piloted by an apprentice.

Most observers also agree that by tapping Mogherini for this role, Europe has sent a clear message that it's not really interested in having a common foreign policy and instead prefers a weak official who will let each foreign minister pursue his or her country's own agenda. European leaders, it seems, do not take seriously the idea that their continent's weight in the world depends on the ability of its member nations to act together.<=p>

5) The other airplane accident. Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 wasn't this summer's only geopolitically significant aviation tragedy. On August 13, the Brazilian presidential candidate Eduardo Campos was flying in a private jet when it crashed in poor weather conditions as it was landing at an airport near São Paulo. Up until then, the reelection of President Dilma Rousseff in October elections seemed a near certainty that would guarantee four more years in office for the political elite that has governed Brazil since 2003. But the polls have tightened since Marina Silva, who had been Campos's vice-presidential candidate, replaced him in the race. She now has a real chance of beating Dilma. If that happens, it could bring about many changes in Brazil, including the reflexive solidarity that its leaders have offered Latin American governments with awful human-rights records. Democracy may have a better chance in countries like Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, where for the past decade human rights, freedom of expression, and political liberties have been severely and systematically curtailed with the silent acquiescence of the region's largest country.

As I mentioned last week in my Weekly Readings, both my parents contracted cancer with it killing my dad in his early fifties. I currently have several friends fighting the dreaded disease today but the difference today than when my parents contracted cancer in the 1960s is that it is no longer a death sentence as there are a number of cutting edge treatments that are allowing patients to beat this killer and enabling them to live productive lives for decades. Last week I did a piece on the new immunotherapy drug Keytruda (pembrolizumab) which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved several weeks ago to treat patients who had advanced melanoma that had spread throughout their bodies, signaling a paradigm shift in the way the deadly skin cancer is treated.

And this week I would like to talk about Proton Therapy or Proton Beam Therapy, which is a medical procedure, a type of particle therapy that uses a beam of protons to irradiate diseased tissue, most often in the treatment of cancer. Proton therapy's chief advantage over other types of external beam radiotherapy is that it can more precisely localize the radiation dose. It is a precise form of radiotherapy used to treat a number of rare and difficult-to-reach cancers. Conventional forms of radiotherapy use X-rays to kill cancer cells, but these are a blunt tool. X-rays carry energy in the form of an electromagnetic wave. As they pass through the body, X-rays damage tumor cells and healthy cells in their path until all their energy has been dissipated.

Web link: <http://iuhealthprotontherapy.org/how-proton-therapy-works/index.html>
<<http://iuhealthprotontherapy.org/how-proton-therapy-works/index.html>>

A newer approach is to use beams of energetic protons. These act in much the same way as X-ray therapy but are less damaging because the protons stop moving once they have hit their target. A proton beam goes into the patient, gets to the end of its range, and then deposits all its energy. Proton treatment is not widely available. Most people who have received this type of radiation therapy since its introduction in the 1950s have been treated in research centers. The equipment required for proton-beam treatment is massive and expensive. Particle accelerators don't come cheap. A synchrotron, the machine that speeds up the protons before they enter the body, typically requires its own building and costs about \$100 million. And the treatment itself can cost up to three times more than conventional radiation therapy. (Although it's considered a mainstream cancer treatment, not all insurance companies cover it.)

Conditions that may be appropriate for proton therapy include:

- Brain tumors and inoperable brain lesions.
- Pediatric tumors (to reduce the risk of secondary malignancies and to avoid the irradiation of growth plates).
- Tumors near the eye.
- Tumors next to the spinal cord or brain stem.
- Prostate cancer (to spare the rectum and bladder).
- Treatment of recurrent tumors that may have previously received radiation treatment.

Currently, there are proton-therapy centers in a number of industrialized countries including Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, but only a few of those are located in a hospital. The others are all specialized treatment centers that only do proton therapy, and they have to pick and choose among prospective patients based on need. In general, children are top candidates, because X-ray radiation treatment can be so damaging to a body that's still growing; and children and adults with inoperable tumors in the brain or on the spinal cord are good candidates. More and more proton-therapy centers are springing up, though -- the United States and elsewhere.

Pencil beam scanning allows a more precise dose of radiation by "painting" the tumor with protons, which limits radiation to surrounding healthy organs. Pencil beam scanning uses a beam that is much smaller than that used for traditional proton treatments. The experience at Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland, which pioneered pencil beam scanning, has shown that pencil beam scanning is an advance over traditional radiotherapy (which uses photons) because its beam is targeted only to the tumor. It can therefore be used at higher therapeutic doses and with fewer side effects to surrounding healthy tissue. ♦=A0 As of August 2013, 43 particle therapy facilities worldwide represented a total of 121 treatment rooms available to patients. Of these, 28% are located in the US, 23% are located in Japan, and more than 96,537 patients had been treated. A conservative estimate is that about 137,000 new cancer patients each year in the United States could benefit from proton therapy. Current capacity is 11,270 patients a year.

One hindrance to universal use of the proton in cancer treatment is the size and cost of the cyclotron or synchrotron equipment necessary. Several industrial teams are working on development of comparatively small accelerator systems to deliver the proton therapy to patients. Among the technologies being investigated are superconducting synchrocyclotrons (also known as FM Cyclotrons), ultra-compact synchrotrons, dielectric wall accelerators, and linear particle accelerators. Advances in medical imaging technology that will improve the delivery of proton beam therapy in the treatment of cancer was announced this week at a major medical conference in the UK could make proton beam therapy even more of a viable treatment for many more cancer sufferers than ever.

Builders race to develop sky-high condo buildings

New York builders are developing condo towers as tall as the Empire State Building -- and one that will be just one foot shy of the new One World Trade Center.

Completed this year, New York City's One57 reaches 1,005 feet, making it New York's tallest residential building. But it will soon be unseated. Within the next two years, both 432 Park Avenue and 111 West 57th St. are expected to soar past One57. Then comes the 2018 opening of 225 West 57th St., also known as the Nordstrom Tower. Slated to reach 1,775 feet (including its spire), it will be just one foot shy of the new One World Trade Center. "It's happening all over. I describe this as luxury real estate becoming the new global currency," said real estate appraiser Jonathan Miller of Miller Samuel.

Any city where space is limited -- Hong Kong, London, Chicago, San Francisco and, of course, New York -- condo buildings are climbing ever higher, said Brian O'Looney, an architect with Torti Gallas and Partners in Maryland. And because available lots tend to be small, the buildings are also getting increasingly skinnier. ♦=A0 The 111 West 57th building, for example, will only be 60 feet wide at its base. Demand for these sky-high residences is mostly coming from international buyers and corporate bigwigs -- Chinese businessmen, hedge fund managers, Russian oil billionaires -- looking for a place to invest and bragging rights.</=>

New York builders are developing condo towers as tall as the Empire State Building -- and one that will be just one foot shy of the new one World Trade Center. "The taller it is, the more prestigious it is. People want trophy homes," said Eric Trump, executive vice president for Donald's=Trump's Trump Organization. Trump should know. In 2001, his father's company developed one of the first ultra-high condo buildings, Trump World Tower, on Manhattan's East Side. The building topped out at 861 feet and the man who personifies "trophy" anything.

These days, new materials and techniques enable developers to go even higher without residents getting seasick on windy nights, said Timothy Johnson, an architect with NBBJ in New York and Chairman of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. But before developers can even break ground, they are shelling out big bucks for these projects. Not only are city lots expensive, but they must navigate a minefield of regulations and community opposition. Once they get past those hurdles, they pay handsomely for skilled, experienced trade union labor. Per square foot, construction costs for high-rise buildings are more than twice that of shorter buildings, said O'Looney. "These developers have to build at the very top of the luxury market," said Miller. ♦=A0 "That's the only way the math works."

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One57 is still under construction, but this rendering shows what it will look like from Central Park.

The floors on the upper levels produce much of the developers' profits. People are willing to pay big bucks for the views, according to Johnson. At the building near New York City's Central Park, for example, higher condos can cost 1% to 2% more per floor and there's a big jump, roughly 20%, for unobstructed park views, said Miller. Two penthouses at One57 have sold for a whopping \$90 million each. One at 432 Park is said to be priced at \$9 million, one of the most expensive apartments ever sold. "We make tall buildings to be singular . . . to be noticed . . . to be seen as special," said John Torti, president of Torti Gallas and Partners. "This is true for those who build them, design them, and live in them."

I truly understand the appeal of the unobstructed view and even being in a trophy building but I can't wonder about living on the 80th floor of a building in a city where the fire department's equipment does not reach above the 25th floor. I also wonder about living in a building that is essentially vacant, as most of the apartments are owned by foreigners who have multiple residences and often will spend less than a month each year in their apartment in these buildings. ♦=A0 Still our trophy buildings are soaring to unimaginable heights twenty years ago as prices for residences in these buildings soar through the stratosphere.

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Buy It In Bulk: Butter And Nuts

Butter can be pricey (and many cookie recipes require at least a stick), but Collin Morgan, blogger at the coupon and savings site Hip2Save.com, says it's deeply discounted when you buy large quantities at warehouse clubs. You can get 4 pounds of unsalted butter at Costco for \$10.49, which comes out to \$2.62 a pound, while a supermarket charges about \$4.99 for a pound.

The same goes for nuts, most of which can last in the freezer for one to two years. A 2-pound bag of walnuts is about \$12 at Sam's Club, or \$.38 per ounce, while at a supermarket you'll pay closer to \$.70 per ounce. Bonus: Both nuts and butter are perishable, but freeze wonderfully, so you can buy now and bake later. ♦ The one baking item you don't want to buy in bulk, however, is a spice, such as cinnamon or nutmeg. Unless you're going in with a friend and splitting that 10-ounce jar, it'll probably lose its flavor before you finish using it.

Buy It In Bulk: Gift Cards

Whether you're giving them as presents or keeping them for yourself, gift cards are a better deal when you buy more of them. They're available for anything from movies (we found 10 tickets to any AMC theater for \$85), to restaurants (five \$20 gift cards to Peet's Coffee for \$80), to music and app downloads (a 4-pack of \$25 iTunes gift cards for \$95). And while we're on the subject of giving, if you're still sending old-fashioned greeting cards (yay for tradition!), many Etsy sellers offer bulk discounts, such as this one which offers any six designs in her collection for \$20.

Less Is More: Salad Dressing

The golden rule of buying in bulk is computing the cost per unit (just make sure you know what you're comparing). And when it comes to salad dressing, mayonnaise and other condiments, doing a calculation is smart, but there's more to consider. Morgan has calculated the price per ounce on salad dressings at warehouse clubs and supermarkets, and found that if the supermarket is having a sale, she can actually get it for less (and don't fear generic brands: Some chefs actually prefer them). Even more important, though, is that it can be near impossible to finish that gallon jug of Caesar salad dressing before its expiration date passes.

Buy It In Bulk: Batteries

Lithium batteries, which are common in consumer electronics, have a great shelf life, so they're perfect for buying in large quantities. Stored at room temperature, or at about 70 degrees, they'll last 10 to 15 years (just keep them out of reach of children, since they can be dangerous if swallowed). Alkaline batteries -- the ones shaped like cylinders -- have a slightly shorter, but still very good, lifespan: about 5 to 10 years, in storage. One exception: Rechargeable batteries lose 1 percent of their deliverable energy every day so only purchase those as needed.

Less Is More: Peanut Oil

We know cooking oils don't last forever, but until we saw this chart, we had no idea just how quickly they can go rancid. For instance, peanut oil, which is excellent for achieving the crispiest crust on a chicken drumstick, will keep for two years in your pantry (after you open it). If you're making fried chicken for six, you'll probably go through about 64 ounces of oil, which is a size that most supermarkets sell for \$7, or even less. If you buy a larger size and don't fry foods often, the oil will likely go bad before you finish it (signs to look for: an off smell or a change in color).

Chart: The Rich Are Getting Richer, The Poor Are....

The Federal Reserve's 2013 Survey of Consumer Finances is out, and guess what? Over the past 25 years, the rich have seen their wealth skyrocket, from 44.8 percent of the total to 54.4 percent of the total. The middle class and the poor, by contrast, have seen their share of national wealth plummet from 33.2 percent to 24.7 percent. In other words, the rich are getting richer and the poor are....well, you know. Is it any wonder that the rich don't really want to see a lot of changes to our current economic regime? Why would they?

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One of America's defining ideals is the idea that opportunity is available to all, regardless of where one starts on the economic ladder.

The reality is that income inequality has grown dramatically since the 1970s and that increasing inequality has not been matched with growing economic mobility. Instead, the rungs on the ladder of economic advancement are being pulled further apart: in 1970, the upper-class household at the ninety-fifth percentile of income (\$122,294 in 2012 constant dollars) had an income roughly three times that of the middle-class household at the fortieth percentile of income (\$37,282 in 2012 constant dollars), but by 2012, the household at the ninety-five percentile (\$191,156) received nearly five times the income of the fortieth percentile household (\$39,674).

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Increasing income inequality has contributed to rising levels of residential segregation by income in large metropolitan areas. As high-income families share fewer neighborhoods with middle-class and lower-income families, the U.S. is characterized by increasingly unequal social contexts that contribute to widening disparities in educational achievements by wealth and income. This growing divide presents fundamental obstacles to individuals' efforts to realize their full potential, and in turn, the nation's ability to make the most of the potential human capital of its residents.

Given the ways in which income inequality and segregation can harm the broader society by denying each individual a fair chance to achieve his or her potential, this rise in inequality and the effects on economic mobility are increasingly recognized as defining issues for America's future. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed a continuing commitment to the ideal of human equality.

While this ideal has often been challenged, the most significant social movements and legislative initiatives have sought to vindicate the ideal of equality of opportunity and to live up to the promises of judgments based on the contents of one's character — not on one's race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical abilities or socioeconomic background. As a result we need real/serious policy-based solutions in order to meet the profound challenges of income and wealth inequality and growing poverty now facing American society. These solutions have to be based on putting money in as many American families' hands as possible, and not the few at the top no matter how many jobs they claim that they can produce.

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Investments to help fight climate change can also spur economic growth, rather than slow it as widely feared, but time is running short for a trillion-dollar shift to transform cities and energy use, an international report said on Tuesday. The study, by former heads of government, business leaders, economists and other experts, said the next 15 years were critical for a bigger shift to clean energies from fossil fuels to combat global warming and cut health bills from pollution. "It is possible to tackle climate change and it is possible to have economic growth at the same time," Felipe Calderon, a former Mexican president and head of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate, told a news conference. Many governments and businesses wrongly fear that measures to slow climate change will undermine jobs and growth, he said. The report is meant to guide world leaders at a Sept. 23 climate summit hosted by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Almost 200 nations are working on a U.N. pact, due to be agreed in Paris in late 2015, to rein in rising greenhouse gas emissions. Progress to combat global warming has been slow despite two decades of work. "How the world's largest and fastest-growing cities develop will be critical to the future path of the global economy and climate," the report said, recommending a shift to "compact cities" that used less energy and invested in public transport. Cities are home to half of the planet's 7.2 billion people, generate 80 percent of global economic growth and account for about 70 percent of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, it said. But many urban areas are sprawling out of control.

TIME SHORT

The report said the next 15 years were vital because, in that time, "the global economy will grow by more than half, a billion more people will come to live in cities" and new technology will change businesses and lives. A U.N. panel of experts says swift action is needed to avert more heatwaves, floods, droughts and rising seas. It says it is at least 95 percent probable that human activities, rather than natural swings in the climate, are the main cause of warming.

Overall, the Commission said that \$90 trillion in investments were needed in the next 15 years to keep a high-carbon model of infrastructure for cities, transport, energy and water systems, or an average \$6 trillion a year. A shift to low-carbon energy, such as wind or solar power, and greener cities would cost a further \$270 billion a year - a 4.5 percent increase in the bill that could be offset by other savings, for instance on fuel. "Investing in a low-carbon economy is a cost-effective form of insurance against climate risk," it said.

Among drawbacks with the existing economy, the report said air pollution cost 4.4 percent of world gross domestic product, with a high of more than 10 percent of GDP in China. Jeremy Oppenheim, director of the report, said China and other emerging nations have grown aware of the risks of coal-based growth and fast-expanding cities. "Things are very different even compared with five years ago," he told Reuters. In rich nations, inefficiencies still abounded in cities such as New York, London or Paris. "Twenty percent of fuel costs in cities are spent looking for parking spots," he said. Unlike past climate change studies which have focused on the risks of inaction, the report seeks to show economic benefits of investments which could also help the environment, he said.

The report urged governments to phase out fossil fuel subsidies totaling more than \$600 billion a year, far more than \$100 billion in annual support given to renewable energy. And it urged better use of farmland. "Restoring just 12 percent of the world's degraded agricultural land could feed 200 million people by 2030, while also strengthening climate resilience and reducing emissions," it said. In April, a report drawing on the work of 1,000 experts said that a shift to low-carbon energy would trim about 0.06 percent a year off world economic growth. It did not compare costs and benefits as starkly as Tuesday's report.

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

Watch: Climate Change -- Faith and Fact

The latest in a string of dire reports on climate change recently came from the United Nations' meteorological advisory body, which said that the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new record high in 2013, due to a "surge" in carbon dioxide, prompting fears of an accelerated warming of the planet. A majority of Americans think global warming is real and that human activity is a factor, believing in the science behind reports on climate change. But some two-thirds of white evangelical Christians aren't convinced.

In the face of those who use religion to deny the worldwide crisis of climate change, climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe, an evangelical Christian, believes that her faith is compatible with science. Several weeks ago on Mothers & Company she spoke about ending the gridlock between politics, science and faith in order to find solutions to the widespread threats associated with global warming. For you Christians, I strongly urge that you view the interview below.

Web Link: Katharine Hayhoe tells us:

...The New Testament talks about how faith is the evidence of things not seen. By definition, science is the evidence of things that are seen, that can be observed, that are quantifiable. And so that's why I see faith and science as two sides of the same coin."

The daughter of missionaries, Hayhoe believes she, too, has a mission:

"Caring about climate is entirely consistent with who we are as Christians. But over the last several decades... we have increasingly begun to confound our politics with our faith. To the point where instead of our faith dictating our attitudes on political and social issues we are instead allowing our political party to dictate our attitude on issues that are clearly consistent with who we are... Climate change is a casualty of much larger societal issues. If we can get past the issue of rhetoric and politics, and actually start talking about what's in our hearts, I have seen amazing things happen in terms of moving forward to look at solutions that are consistent with the values that we have."

Katharine Hayhoe teaches at Texas Tech University and is director of its Climate Science Center. She is the founder and CEO of Atmos Research, a scientific research and consulting firm and co-author of *A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions*. A rising star of climate science, Hayhoe was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2014 and featured in the Emmy Award-winning Showtime documentary series *Years of Living Dangerously*.

A VERY UNIQUE CLOCK

Have

Click on this link: <http://www.poodwaddle.com>

Wow.... Wow.... Wow..../i>

<=iv style="text-align:center">

=p class="MsoNormal">THIS WEEK's MUSIC

Creedence Clearwater Revival

If there ever was ever a sound that mirrored the music and feel of San Francisco in the late 1960s and early 1970s it is the songs by Creedence Clearwater Revival or Creedence or CCR. The band consisted of lead vocalist, lead guitarist, and primary songwriter John Fogerty, rhythm guitarist Tom Fogerty (John's brother), bassist Stu Cook, and drummer Doug Clifford. <=pan style="color:black;font-family:Georgia,serif;font-size:12pt;line-height:107%"> Their musical style encompassed the roots rock and swamp rock genres. Despite their San Francisco Bay Area origins, they portrayed a

Southern rock style, singing about bayous, catfish, the Mississippi River, and other popular elements of Southern iconography. Creedence Clearwater Revival's music is still a staple of American and worldwide radio airplay; the band has sold 26 million albums in the United States alone. Creedence Clearwater Revival was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993. Rolling Stone ranked the band 82nd on its list of the 100 greatest artists of all time. Their musical influence can be heard in many genres including southern rock, grunge, roots rock, and blues.

"Creedence Clearwater Revival, which disbanded in 1972, were progressive and anachronistic at the same time. An unabashed throwback to the golden era of rock and roll, they broke ranks with their peers on the progressive, psychedelic San Francisco scene. Their approach was basic and uncompromising, holding true to the band members' working-class origins. The term 'roots rock' had not yet been invented when Creedence came along, but in a real way they defined it, drawing inspiration from the likes of Little Richard, Hank Williams, Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, and the artisans of soul at Motown and Stax. In so doing, Creedence Clearwater Revival became the standard bearers and foremost celebrants of homegrown American music." -- Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

http://youtu.be/TS9_ipu9GKw

Creedence Clearwater Revival – Down on the Corner -- <http://youtu.be/nJAjOlp4Tas>

http://youtu.be/Aae_RHRptRg=/a>

Creedence Clearwater Revival – Fortunate Son -- http://youtu.be/JBfjU3_XOaA

Creedence Clearwater Revival – I Put a Spell On You -- <http://youtu.be/xeXqtzusIU0> <<http://youtu.be/xeXqtzusIU0>>

Creedence Clearwater Revival (Live at Woodstock '69) -- <http://youtu.be/P0-ZKaWVYSk> <<http://youtu.be/P0-ZKaWVYSk>> <=p>

Tom Fogerty – Lodi -- <http://youtu.be/DsHPZ10Pdx4> <<http://youtu.be/DsHPZ10Pdx4>>

Tom Fogerty – Proud Mary -- <http://youtu.be/Qid3l1C1Cko> <<http://youtu.be/Qid3l1C1Cko>>

John Fogerty – Suzie Q -- <http://youtu.be/jhVunJ7YCuE> <<http://youtu.be/jhVunJ7YCuE>>

John Fogerty – Bad Moon -- http://youtu.be/H06_0Apz=zY

John Fogerty – Who'll Stop the Rain -- <http://youtu.be/ekw13v8Et7U> <<http://youtu.be/ekw13v8Et7U>>

John Fogerty – Lookin' Out My Backdoor -- <http://youtu.be/3cVWjOrOHrc> <<http://youtu.be/3cVWjOrOHrc>> </=>

John Fogerty & ZZ Top – Sharp Dressed Man -- <= href="http://youtu.be/lAOKwD0gabU" target="_blank"><http://youtu.be/lAOKwD0gabU>

Bruce Springsteen & John Fogerty – Pretty Woman -- <http://youtu.be/HDTcWqDCZi8> <<http://youtu.be/HDTcWqDCZi8>>

Tom Fogerty Rare interview, April 26, 1986 -- http://youtu.be/ZavHpO_We20 <http://youtu.be/ZavHpO_We20>

I hope that you enjoyed this week's offerings and wish you and yours a great week....=/span>

Sincerely,

Greg Brown

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