

THE MIAMI COLLAPSE [UPDATED!]

The Miami collapse is beyond disturbing, but what else is there to come?

FERTILE GROUND: LACK OF BROADBAND AND DISINFORMATION PROLIFERATION

The lack of broadband infrastructure serving Americans uniformly leaves them prey to disinformation about existential matters. This country needs broadband everywhere.

LONG OVERDUE POLICIES THAT LOOK OBVIOUS IN THE AGE OF PANDEMIC

With the crisis of COVID, policies that long made sense but were considered too radical have become necessary.

KREWE DU BOO TRASH TALK

Okay, another late start to Trash. Now if you have not heard, there is some bad bongos in Nawlins. The Hard Rock Hotel (not just a restaurant, this thing was to be huge), has collapsed in what will be an insanely huge liability claim for about thirty different fronts. People have died and their bodies still not recovered. An entire critical section of NOLA evacuated as a danger zone.

And, now, for insult onto injury, the Krewe du Boo Halloween parade has been cancelled. While not exactly the Krewe du Vieux and the other Krewes for Mardis Gras, this was kind of a thing, apparently, for NOLA. Keep your eye out for the litigation for this mammoth fuck up in engineering and development. It will be large, fascinating, and going on for a long time. Sad, in every way imaginable.

In the collegiate ranks, the Florida/South Carolina game is already interesting. After what SC did to Georgia, that has to worry Jim White. I'll still take the Gators, but the game is in the Gamecocks stadium. Oregon at Washington Huskies is worth the watch. Michigan at Penn State is a huge game. I don't know that it will get better for Harbaugh in Happy Valley, but it will be interesting.

ASU at Utah could, and should, be a great game. The Sun Devils of Herm Edwards are at an improbable 5-1 heading in to Salt Lake to visit a similarly situated 5-1 Utah, except nobody predicted Utah losing to USC earlier. Rice-Eccles Stadium is not a huge venue, but it is a compact and intimidating place to play on the road. Note my time in Rice-Eccles was for a couple of days on a Rolling Stones show I was working, not a football game. It is pretty, especially at the time of day the game is scheduled. If you can get the game on your carrier, it may be worth the watch.

For the Pros, the Chefs already clouted the Donkos, but lost Pat Mahomes for a couple of weeks. No problem, they just have the Packers and Vikings the next two weeks. But Matt Moore is not a scrub, Kansas City can still play with him at the helm. Speaking of the Vikings, they are at Detroit, and I smell an upset by the Kittehs. Oakland is at the Packers, and that could be a far better game than you would think. Philly at the 'Boys could be okay. For you noisy 49ers fans, no, they are playing the Skins. They should win.

Arizona at the Gents is not a great game, but could get very interesting. Kyler Murray and the Cards offense has been better than expected, and the beleaguered AZ defense gets Patrick Peterson back, and he is still one of the best corners in football. Saints at Bears "should" be good, but Teddy Bridgewater has the Saints plugging along, I'll take them. Ravens at Squawks is a matchup of two of the three best running QB's in the league. Should be fascinating, but it is in Seattle, and man is that a tough place to play on the road. Lastly, the Pats visit the Jets on MNF. Jets are a LOT better with Sam Darnold back. Is that enough for a huge upset? I doubt it, but it may be close.

Lastly, MLB. It is the time of year where baseball counts, even here. The Natinals have already swept St. Louis and have their place in the World Series locked up while resting their superb starting pitchers. Astros up 3-2 on the Yanks, and heading back to Houston town for games 6 and 7. They will have the ridiculously good so far in the playoffs Gerrit Cole ready to go for one of them. It was supposed that would be for game 6, but that does not seem to be a given, they may save him for a knock out game 7. How that pitching decision plays out will be fascinating. I think I'd go ahead and let him throw game 6.

That is it for this week folks. Music by the great Lowell George and Little Feat.

ANOTHER KIND OF RECOVERY: POST-MARIA PUERTO RICO AND HEALTH CARE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Hope you don't need an IV soon. I'll be thinking of people who do while Trump bloviates tonight about the state of our disunion.

PAY NOW AND PAY LATER: WHAT LOSING CHIP MEANS TO AMERICA

Let me tell you something you secretly believe, secret even from yourself, because you are an American: poor and sick children aren't going to amount to anything. This is true whether you're a Republican or a Democrat.

THREE THINGS: NON- NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

We'll still have to deal with broken economy, more Legionnaires disease cases, and Disney's

recalcitrance on protecting kids if the planet isn't blown up over a stupid tweet or two. This is an open thread.

THE JETZON'S SELF DRIVING AUTO CAR DRONE AINT HERE YET



History shows again and again
How nature points out the folly of men.

Yeah, truer words never spoken. Even if in relation to Godzilla. And you can apply that to the relentlessly ballyhooed “autonomous driving automobiles”.

Seriously, this stuff is Henny Youngman type of slapsick comedy. It ain't happening.

Okay, I am cribbing from Atrios, but dammit, what the hell do you think us conspiracy propagators are supposed to do??

I'm just saying these cars won't ever (in our lifetimes – sure, eventually the singularity might arrive) really work as hyped and certainly don't deserve all of the press they're getting. I also don't think that even if they did work they'd

be a big improvement for all (some) of the reasons people think they will be, but those are more debatable issues which I rarely bother to debate because the fact is the things aren't going to work. Okay, I'll define "work."

Basically, you have to be able to tune out 100% over 90% of the time. I'll even allow for a "last mile" kind of "time for you to drive" thing as long as the rest of the time you can kick back and read your book or whatever. Because if you have to pay attention but usually not doing anything, what's the point? It's just better cruise control. A neat feature for some, but nothing more than that.

Ya. I am sure that all of you out there driving their Tesla 3's will squawk [oh, wait, they are not out yet!]. As I am sure all of you on the waiting list for Tesla 3's [good luck with that!] that is already years behind technical and production capability at Tesla are oh so defensive of the giant Elon Musk dream. Surely the dream will catch up to reality, it must!

Also, the supertrains between Los Angeles and San Francisco (okay, forget the "cheaper" stuff, that was a joke!) and between New York and Washington DC are totally gonna be ready to roll after New Year's Eve.

When the candidates talk about their totally awesome "infrastructure and jobs" proposals, maybe ask what the hell they are talking about. Because it is probably bullshit. Hold them to it.

BLUMENTHAL, BOOKER

POINT TO UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK FOR CALL FOR TSA IN TRAINS

Richard Blumenthal and Cory Booker are using a thwarted attack on a train in Paris as reason to call for more TSA presence in trains.

Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Cory Booker (D-N.J.) are urging the TSA to “to implement security and safety improvements ... to our country’s public transportation and passenger rail systems” that the duo said were “mandated by Congress in 2007 but still not implemented.”

“This effort comes on the heels of an attempted terrorist attack on a Paris-bound train last week in which three Americans successfully subdued the attacker,” Blumenthal’s office said in a statement previewing an appearance by the Connecticut senator at Hartford’s Union Station.

That’ll fix Amtrak’s woes: to make taking the train as humiliating and time-consuming as flying.

As it happens, DHS’ Inspector General is looking at what TSA is doing for Amtrak security right now.

TSA Oversight of National Passenger Rail System Security	Determine the extent to which TSA has policies, processes, and oversight measures to improve security on our national passenger rail system (AMTRAK).
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So the Senators might wait until that is done.

More interesting, however, the National Transportation Safety Board still hasn’t solved the May 12 derailment in Philadelphia that killed 8 and wounded 200. Last we heard, NTSB was asking, again, for trains (both freight and

passenger) to be equipped with the kind of recording equipment that would help determine the cause of accidents.

Call me crazy, but passengers stand at least a decent chance of thwarting a gun attack on a train. Not so something wrong with the train itself.

Maybe we should work on fixing the trains themselves – and while we're at it the infrastructure. Only then should prioritizing this kind of policing take precedence.