TUESDAY: CHANGE OF PACE

I need a break – a change of pace after the last several day's nonstop doom-and-gloom observing what has become an American version of the Day of the Dead. Add the nauseating bullshit misogynist circus piling on the "church faint" by a post-menopausal woman wearing too much clothing in humid weather while recovering from pneumonia. It's unrelenting ridiculousness which can only be broken by the injection of dark humor.

I like this young director Almog Avidan Antonir's body of short works, including this little zombie love story. Looking forward whatever he might have next up his sleeve.

The Dakotas

- Lawmaker unintentionally makes armed law enforcement drones legal in North Dakota (Independent-UK) – Way to go, dude. Legislator submitted a bill to outlaw armed drones; wretched police union got to the bill with revisions and now law enforcement can use drones armed with non-lethal force. North Dakota is now the first state in the U.S. to legalize armed drones. Want to bet law enforcement is already preparing to use this technology against pipeline protesters?
- South Dakota Yankton Sioux filed suit against U.S.

government over pipeline (Indian Country Today) – While media focused attention on North Dakota's Standing Rock Sioux protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline, the Yankton Sioux in South Dakota filed against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though the planned pipeline runs through tribal treaty lands, the government did not complete an environmental study or a consult with the affected tribe – same complaint in South as in North Dakota. The pipeline company, Energy Transfer, did not use tribe members to identify any challenges during planning of the pipeline route.

- Trespass charges against journalist Goodman blows off First Amendment and Justice Dept. (Committee to Protect Journalists) – CPJ's Carlos Lauria said the warrant issued for Democracy Now's Amy Goodman is "a transparent attempt to intimidate reporters" covering the NoDAPL protests. Morton County's warrant ignores Justice

Dept's joint statement with Interior Dept halting pipeline construction, in which the departments said, "we fully support the rights of all Americans to assemble and speak freely. …" Goodman clearly identified herself as a reporter.
- Oil producers whine about pipeline delays interfering with cheap oil (Fortune) – These guys are just not catching the cluestick. It may take shareholder activism to wake these morons up about the end of fossil fuels and a need for entirely new business models instead of forcing oil pipelines through.
- Standing Rock: a new civil rights movement? (Guardian) – Op-ed looks at the birth of a new movement where environmental and civil rights activism join forces to protect indigenous people and Missouri River – the longest river in the continental U.S.

Flint Water Crisis

- Former state epidemiologist not talking about possible plea deal (MLive.com) – Corinne Miller, now retired,

was arraigned in August on felony misconduct and misdemeanor neglect of duty. Miller suppressed action on children's blood lead levels and told Michigan Dept of Health and Human Services employees to delete emails related to the blood lead data.

- Water bill moves forward in Senate (The Hill) – Emergency funding for Flint and its lead-contaminated water system closer to passing as part of a $9.4 billion bill for water-related infrastructure and clean drinking water. The bill also includes assistance for Louisiana's flood recovery. Money for Flint's aid may be paid by cutting the Energy Dept's Advanced Vehicle Manufacturing Technology loan program.
- Water filters still needed by Flint residents through end of year, possibly longer (Detroit Free Press) – There's no clear end to the water crisis, even though funding may soon be available. Thresholds for lead levels have not yet been agreed upon by state

and federal officials. The amount of damage to the city's water system continues to complicate recovery efforts.

Still Picking on Volkswagen

- VW engineer plead guilty to conspiracy, wire fraud and violating Clean Air Act (Jurist.org) – The record of engineer James Robert Liang's June indictment was unsealed on Friday, revealing he and co-conspirators designed, implemented, and lied about emissions controls technology which evaded emissions standards. One interesting bit of new information is the involvement of an unnamed third-party engineering company partially owned by Volkswagen, referred to in the indictment as "Company A."
- Awkward: Liang to be sentenced during North American International Auto Show (Detroit News) – Four months from now, smack in the middle press week for Detroit's 2017 NAIAS, VW engineer Liang will be sentence in U.S. District

> Court in the Eastern District of Michigan. This op-ed notes Liang's plea hints at a much-larger conspiracy in VW pursued by investigators. Somebody had to sign off on this design, at a minimum. And somebody had to tell Bosch what and how to make the non-compliant electronic controls units.

Longread: Rakoff on Fiss and rights under a War on Terror

United States District Judge Jed S. Rakoff looks at a collection of essays by legal scholar Owen Fiss, written over the last 13 years while the U.S. the so-called "War on Terror."

Toodles!