

FRIDAY: THERE'S ALWAYS THE SECOND LINE

After the shock, denial, horror, anger, and grief of death, there's always the second line. Seems fitting today in the wake of Brexit to observe the passing of an ideal – a United Kingdom, in harmony with its European neighbors and allies – that we have a second line.

You're probably familiar with the imagery of the second line, a New Orleans tradition in which a jazz band plays for a funeral procession after the mourners have buried the dead. The history of the second line isn't clear in no small part because it originated among the African diaspora and the creole community, whose cultural history is poorly documented because of race. The second line was the other face of death – the celebration of the departed's arrival at better world beyond the reach of the living. Over the last hundred years, the second line became a community event not confined to funeral processions alone. Sunday afternoons revolved around street parties centered on the local Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs and Benevolent Societies from which many brass jazz bands emerged as a part of the services offered through their co-op funeral insurance.

The video embedded here is more of a traditional blues dirge among second line tunes, but it might be played before or after the funeral. This video, however, shares music with true second line spirit, recorded as an observation of the passing year. And this second line following the funeral of Ernest "Doc" Watson is the definitive example.

Best jazz I can do post-Brexit referendum.

Brexit Backwash

▪ What's next after the

referendum? (EU Law Analysis) – First snappy overview of the legal steps Britain will take, by Professor of EU and Human Rights Law at the University of Essex. More emphasis here on pertinent human rights issues.

- What's next after the referendum, redux? (Public Law for Everyone) – Second equally snappy overview of the legal steps Britain will take, this time by Mark Elliott, Professor of Public Law at the University of Cambridge, Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, and Legal Adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Constitution.
- EU's disintegration will still affect UK in spite of Brexit (The Guardian) – Cripes, did none of the UK's Eton elites or the white nationalists think to listen to Yanis Varoufakis, former Finance Minister to Greece during Grexit? This op-ed is grim and frank – Varoufakis is plain-spoken. Reading it only makes me more certain the EU will utterly abandon comprehensive emissions

controls for the region, and Volkswagen's fraudulent passenger diesels will never leave the bloody roads.

- Jo Cox's death and Brexit (The New Yorker) – If aren't already sickened by either Brexit or the murder of MP Jo Cox eight days ago, read this. Guess how her constituency voted.
- Brexit's future impact on British cuisine (Europa) – European cook Thom Eagle looks at the effect Brexit will have on what he does, from Spanish olive oil to French mushrooms. Hard to imagine the soft-handed elitist prats wanting to go back to Heinz canned beans on toast. Oh wait, UK doesn't grow much of its own wheat. Beans it is...nuts, they import those from the U.S., many of them from Michigan.
- Speaking of which, Brexit's affect on Michigan (Detroit Free Press) – Michigan may well be one of the states Brexit affects most, given the existence of General Motors' plants in the UK and the UK market for automobiles. UK bought more than Brazil or Germany from

GM last year, but the cost to continue operations in UK...oy.

Legal and other la-la

- SCOTUS ruling on Abigail “#BeckyWithTheBadGrades” Fisher and why it matters (The Establishment) – In SCOTUS ruling this week on *Fisher v. University of Texas*, UT-Austin had not only ensured true meritocracy by accepting the top 10% of students from each high school without regard for any other criteria, but they built a strong justification for selectivity of other students. Fisher, in spite of having the advantages that come from being white and adequately resourced, simply didn’t make the top 10% at her school in a year when admission was incredibly competitive, AND she brought nothing else to the school to benefit other students.
- Split decision upholds lower court ruling reinforcing tribal sovereignty (Bitch Media) – If you commit a crime on tribal lands even if you’re not a Native

American, expect an American Indian tribe to file civil suit. Simple as that. In this case, if s a child molester working for Dollar General molests a child on Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' tribal lands, the Choctaws can file against the perp and employer regardless of non-native status.

- Marginalization of poor white Americans (Pacific Standard) – The U.S version of Brexit could be built on this segment of the population, which feels left out by efforts to increase equality for minorities. Point taken, but somebody's going to have to write the bridge out of this pity party for people who constantly vote against their best interests, and discuss intersectionality in raising equality across the population.

Weekend long read

Governor Jerry Brown reviews a new book by former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry. My Journey at the Nuclear Brink is some eyebrow-raising stuff.

That's a wrap on a particularly grueling week.
Have a nice weekend.