

Times Digest

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New Herbicide May Be Culprit In Tree Deaths

A recently approved herbicide called Imprelis, widely used by landscapers because it was thought to be environmentally friendly, has emerged as the leading suspect in the deaths of thousands of Norway spruces, eastern white pines and other trees on lawns and golf courses across the country.

Manufactured by DuPont and conditionally approved for sale last October by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Imprelis is used for killing broadleaf weeds like dandelion and clover and is sold to lawn care professionals only. Reports of dying trees started surfacing around Memorial Day, prompting an inquiry by DuPont.

"We are investigating the reports of these unfavorable tree symptoms," said Kate Childress, a spokeswoman for DuPont. "Until this investigation is complete, it's difficult to say what variables contributed to the symptoms."

DuPont continues to sell the product, which is registered for use in all states except California and New York. The company said there were many places where the product had been used without damaging trees.

The E.P.A. has begun gathering information on the deaths from state officials and DuPont as well as through its own investigators. "E.P.A. is taking this very seriously," the agency said in a statement.

In a June 17 letter to its landscape customers, Michael McDermott, a DuPont products official, seemed to put the onus on workers applying Imprelis. He wrote that customers with affected trees might not have mixed the herbicide properly or might have combined it with other herbicides. Officials have also suggested the trees may come back.

For some landscapers, the die-off has been catastrophic. "It's been devastating," said Matt Coats, service manager for Underwood Nursery in Adrian, Mich. "We've made 1,000 applications and had 350 complaints of dead trees, and it's climbing. I've done nothing for the last three weeks but deal with angry customers." **JIM ROBBINS**

In Debt Battle, War Over Government

WASHINGTON — The endgame in the fight to increase the nation's debt limit has only begun, but intense exchanges this week have made it clear that this is not so much a dollars-and-cents budget negotiation as a broader clash between the two parties over the size and role of government.

What makes a bipartisan "grand bargain" so elusive are less the budget numbers, on which compromise could be in reach, than each side's principles, which do not lend themselves to splitting the difference. President Obama wants deficit reduction, including tax increases for wealthier Americans and corporations. Congressional Republicans, prodded by a cadre of uncompromising junior lawmakers, want a vastly smaller government constrained by lower taxes. The two are not the same thing.

Obama will make his case on Friday in a White House news conference, his third in just two weeks.

However this showdown is settled, it seems increasingly likely to define not only the legislative

record of this Congress, divided between a Republican-controlled House and a Democratic-controlled Senate, but also the 2012 elections and Obama's prospects for a second term.

The two sides met for under two hours at the White House on Thursday, even as attention appeared to shift away from the prospect of a bipartisan budget agreement to the likelihood of a backup plan to raise the debt ceiling before the Aug. 2 deadline.

Having discussed spending cuts in past White House meetings, the negotiators considered the administration's proposals for raising taxes, which Republicans have vowed to oppose. Obama previously had said they would meet again on Friday to decide whether they could come to some deficit-reduction deal or else give up, and negotiate a way to raise the \$14.3 trillion debt limit while deferring the bigger budget-cutting clash.

Instead, at the end of Thursday's session, he told the leaders to consider the issue and be ready for his summons to a weekend

meeting.

Underlying the budget drama between the White House and Congressional Republicans is another compelling drama among Republicans, which exposes an ideological and generational gap. On one side are older, more senior conservatives like the two top leaders, Speaker John A. Boehner and Sen. Mitch McConnell, the minority leader, who remember the budget fights and Republican setbacks of the 1990s.

On the other are the uncompromising junior lawmakers, many of them Tea Party sympathizers, whose ranks were inflated by the 87 newcomers elected to the House in the midterm elections last year. Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House majority leader, has emerged as their standard bearer, and carried their message into a sharp exchange with Obama on Wednesday evening.

Republicans have shown that their higher priority is not lower deficits, as it was for the party through most of the last century, but a smaller government.

JACKIE CALMES

Protesters Get Creative in Post-Soviet Nations

MINSK, Belarus — At the time appointed for Wednesday evening's anti-government protest here in the capital of Belarus, scores of burly plainclothes officers were waiting in Yakub Kolas Square. Their job was to prevent it from happening.

But it was difficult for them to know who, among the skateboarders, young urban professionals and stolid-looking grandmothers, was taking part. The park benches filled up, and then the stone curbs, but the activists — following instructions posted on an Internet site — were not actually doing anything.

At 8 p.m., their phones buzzed or beeped or played music.

The sixth of the weekly "clapping protests" had eliminated clapping, which left the police and activists with tough questions: Can you detain people because their phones are beeping? And when you cannot tell who is pro-

testing, is it still a protest?

Innovative forms of protest are popping up in the former Soviet countries. None of them has mobilized large numbers or posed any threat to the ruling elites. They attract young people in free-form, often social-media-directed alternatives to the picketing and chants their elders employ.

Russia has the "blue buckets," activists who affix plastic sand toys to their cars (or their heads) in a protest against the traffic privileges accorded to government officials, whose cars are equipped with flashing blue lights. In Azerbaijan, where protesters are hustled away quickly, small flash mobs have appeared out of nowhere to perform sword fights or folk dances.

The more permissive political atmosphere of Ukraine has spawned Femen, a group of young women who address such nonsexy issues as pension reform

by baring their breasts in public. A woman was arrested in April for walking up to a World War II memorial in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, and frying eggs and sausages over the eternal flame.

Belarus has opted to take a hard line. About 1,830 people have been detained by the police since June, when a small group of activists living in exile initiated the clapping protests, said Tatyana Revyako, who works for Vyasna, a human rights group. Upward of 500 people have received sentences of 5 to 15 days, she said.

The crackdown has generated a good deal of absurdity. One of the people convicted of taking part in a clapping protest on Belarus's July 3 Independence Day was Konstantin Kaplin, 36, who argued in court that contrary to the testimony of a police officer, he could not have been applauding because he has only one arm.

ELLEN BARRY

Antiaircraft Missiles Are Trafficked in Libya

GA'A, Libya — Five months after the armed uprising erupted in Libya, a fresh round of portable antiaircraft missiles — weapons that governments fear could be obtained by terrorists and then fired at civilian jetliners — have been slipping from storage bunkers captured by rebels.

In February, in the early stages of the uprising, large numbers of the missiles slipped from the control of the government of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi as the rebels established control over eastern Libya and the ammunition depots there. The leakage resumed recently with rebel gains here in the western mountains, which opened up new ammunition stores.

The new leakage of the missiles, which are of the same type that officials in other African nations have said have already been trafficked over Libya's borders, underscores the organizational weakness of the forces opposed to Qaddafi and raises concerns that

if more Qaddafi depots fall to the rebels, then further stocks of the weapons could become accessible to black markets.

Signs of the diversion are readily visible here, at an ammunition depot captured late last month from the Qaddafi forces, after repeated NATO bombings.

On a recent day, 43 emptied wooden crates, long, thin and painted in dark green, had been left behind on the sand inside the entrance.

The boxes had not been there during a visit to the same spot a few days before, and the weapons were gone.

The stenciled markings showed that each crate had contained a pair of lightweight missiles called SA-7s — early Soviet versions of the same class of weapon as the American-made Stingers, which were used by Afghan fighters against the Soviets in Afghanistan. It was not clear who had taken them. The rebel guards variously blamed Qaddafi forces and

misinformed opposition fighters.

During more than four decades in power, Qaddafi's often bellicose government is thought to have acquired as many as 20,000 of these missiles, known as Manpads, for Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems, in arms deals with the former Eastern bloc.

Many are assumed to remain in the Qaddafi military's custody, American officials say, and others have been fired in the conflict, meaning that the number loose is most likely much smaller than the original stock.

There has been no publicly available evidence that Libya's rebels are directly involved in missile trafficking.

But American officials and Western security analysts said there are grave worries that once the weapons inherited by rebels have been made accessible and reach unsupervised hands, opportunistic smugglers can match them to potential buyers.

C.J. CHIVERS

In Brief

Bomber Hits Funeral For Karzai's Brother

A suicide bomber detonated explosives hidden under his turban on Thursday after entering a mosque in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where hundreds of people had gathered to pay respects to President Hamid Karzai's half brother, who was assassinated on Tuesday. The mosque attack killed at least three people besides the bomber and raised fears that Kandahar was entering a cycle of violence in the wake of the death of Karzai's brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai, who was the most powerful man in the region. (NYT)

Austerity Plan Nears Adoption in Italy

Even as the Italian Senate rushed through approval of a deficit-cutting austerity package on Thursday to fend off a sovereign debt crisis, doubts were growing about the staying power of the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. The bill, which passed in a confidence vote by 161 to 135, moves to the lower house for final approval on Friday, where it is all but certain to pass. What happens afterward is far less clear. The center-left opposition has been stepping up calls for Berlusconi to resign after the vote and floating the idea of a transitional government followed by early elections to be held long before Berlusconi's mandate is up in 2013. (NYT)

Marijuana Plantation Uncovered in Mexico

Mexican soldiers found the largest marijuana plantation ever detected in Mexico, a huge field covering almost 300 acres, the Defense Department said Thursday. The plantation is four times larger than the previous record discovery by authorities at a ranch in northern Chihuahua state in 1984. The pot plants were sheltered under black screen-cloth in a huge square on the floor of the Baja California desert. Army Gen. Alfonso Duarte said traffickers could have harvested about 120 tons of marijuana from the plantation, worth about \$160 million. (AP)

Murdochs Agree to Testify Before Parliamentary Panel

LONDON — Facing the unpleasant prospect of being represented by a pair of empty chairs and a period of silence at a parliamentary committee hearing on phone hacking next week, Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of News Corporation, and his son James reversed themselves on Thursday and said that yes, they would testify at the hearing after all.

The select committee on culture, media and sport will now have the chance to interrogate not only the two Murdochs but also Rebekah Brooks, chief executive of News International, the company's British newspaper subsidiary. She had agreed from the outset to testify.

Word that the Murdochs had shifted course came as one of several other moves by News Corporation on Thursday that signaled the company was adopting a more proactive strategy to deflect the condemnation being hurled its way. It brought on outside public relations help for the crisis, hired a prominent white-collar defense lawyer and was reportedly planning to run full-page apology ads in newspapers across Britain.

The elder Murdoch made his first extended comments on the matter, phoning a reporter at The Wall Street Journal, which he owns, to defend his son's and his company's handling of the crisis.

He said the matter has been handled "extremely well in every way possible."

He added that he was eager "to address some of the things that have been said in Parliament, some of which are total lies," and said that reports News Corporation is contemplating spinning off their newspapers into a separate entity were "pure rubbish."

Meanwhile, the company's woes increased on Thursday when another former senior editor of its now-defunct News of the World tabloid, Neil Wallis, became the ninth person since January to be arrested in the phone hacking scandal. SARAH LYALL

Officials Say Bombers in Mumbai Had Some Training

NEW DELHI — Indian officials said Thursday that the bombers who had traumatized Mumbai during the evening rush a day earlier appeared to be trained in handling explosives and had possibly used timers to synchronize the deadly triple blast.

Investigators, however, had not identified any suspects, and had been slowed by a rainstorm that impeded evidence-gathering.

As of late Thursday, no group

had claimed responsibility for the three explosions that killed 17 people and wounded 131 in Mumbai, India's commercial capital, on Wednesday, the first terrorist attack there since the assault by a team of Pakistan gunmen in November 2008. At a news conference in Mumbai, India's top security official, Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, would not speculate about who might have carried out the bombings.

Intelligence officials had picked up no warnings. "Whoever has perpetrated this attack has worked in a very, very clandestine manner," Chidambaram said.

The blasts took place within minutes of one another in crowded areas of the city. "They were not crude bombs but sophisticated devices," the home secretary, R.K. Singh, said in New Delhi. "Only somebody who has training can assemble those devices." (NYT)

Biologists Hijack *E. Coli's* Genome

Synthetic biology, the quest to hijack living systems and convert them to human-directed goals, is on the march.

Last year, biologists synthesized the entire genome of a small bacterium and showed how it could infect a second bacterium. Now, biologists have shown they can radically change a genome, not just copy it. A team led by Farren J. Isaacs and George M. Church of the Harvard Medical School has devised a method for making hundreds of changes in a genome simultaneously.

This is one of the advances that would be needed in another project Church and others have posed — re-creating the mammoth by starting with an elephant's genome and altering it at the 400,000 sites at which elephant DNA differs from mammoth DNA.

In the present instance, Isaacs and Church have been working with the laboratory bacterium known as *E. coli*. They have focused on one of its 64 genetic code elements, the amber stop codon.

In Thursday's issue of the journal *Science*, they report they will soon be able to delete the amber stop codon from all 314 sites where it occurs in the *E. coli* genome, without harm to the organism.

"It is a major technical breakthrough which has great promise for scientific breakthroughs to follow," said Dr. Gerald J. Joyce, a biologist who studies the origin of life at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego. "This is really macho molecular biotechnology."

NICHOLAS WADE

Killing Rattles a Community's Long-Held Trust

Yocheved Schachter, a 47-year-old nurse who lives in Borough Park, acknowledges that she has a double standard of sorts: one for people who share her background, and one for people who do not.

"If you're in the airport and need help, a Jew will help you," said Schachter, who is a mother and a grandmother. "I pick up hitchhikers, boys waiting to go to yeshiva. When I travel and see another Jew, we'll eyeball each other; there's a connection. Everywhere you go, all over the world. I'll still do it."

So like her neighbors in Borough Park, located in Brooklyn, N.Y., she has been bewildered by the fact that Leiby Kletzky, 8, was kidnapped and killed, the police say, at the hands of another apparently religious Jew, though not a Hasidic one. "The fact that this came from within," she said, "it's beyond belief."

With its distinctive dress and customs, the insular ultra-Orthodox community of Borough Park has always been somewhat wary of outsiders who might introduce temptations and ideas that could erode their way of life. But the converse — too much trust of those within — has also been true, many civic and religious leaders say, and it is only in recent years that people have become less guileless about and protective of ill-doers from inside their tribe.

On Thursday, Levi Aron, 35, was ordered held without bail on a charge of second-degree murder, and the police disclosed elements of a confession. Aron, according to the police, said that Leiby had approached him on the street Mon-



ROBERT STOLARIK FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Many in the community of Borough Park expressed disbelief on Thursday that a murder suspect was one of their own.

day afternoon, that he had taken the boy to a wedding in Rockland County that night and that he had suffocated the boy in a panic the next day when he realized the huge search was under way.

It may never be known whether Leiby trusted Aron because he appeared to be someone like him. But the murder occurred at a moment of a slow change in how Borough Park residents regarded one another, and some people interviewed on Thursday predicted that, for better or worse, the tragedy would only accelerate it.

"Someone told me, 'Now you know who your neighbors are,'" said Ben Herb, 37, who works at MS Optical on 16th Avenue. "I said: We always had to be cautious in this neighborhood. Here in the center of Borough Park is where you have to be very careful. Most of your neighbors are Orthodox Jews with which children are comfortable. That, in itself, is a risk."

"My children don't talk to strangers whether they wear a yarmulke or a do-rag," he added.

Ruchama Clapman, who runs a small agency that deals with drug and alcohol abuse and sexual molestation largely within the pious Jewish community, recalled that 14 years ago when she started her agency she encountered tremen-

dous resistance simply talking about the problems, "and it took many years before the community was accepting that we had these issues in our community."

"It was hanging out dirty laundry," she said.

People were afraid that if a victim sought help and a problem became widely known, parents might find it difficult to find matches for their sons and daughters, and social and business relations would be hurt. There was also the often misinterpreted ban against mesirah — informing on a fellow Jew to non-Jewish authorities.

Dov Hikind, the local assemblyman, has a radio show that for several years has highlighted the issue of sexual abuse by people in the Orthodox community.

"People were upset at me," he said. "People were furious. They would say: 'You're embarrassing us. We're dealing with it ourselves.' They were not dealing with it." JOSEPH BERGER

In Brief

Pentagon Hacked in March

The Defense Department suffered one of its worst digital attacks in history in March, when a foreign intelligence service hacked into the computer system of a corporate contractor and obtained 24,000 Pentagon files during a single intrusion, senior officials said Thursday. The disclosure came as the Pentagon released a strategy for military operations in cyberspace, embodying a belief that traditional passive programs for defending military and associated corporate data systems are insufficient in an era when espionage, crime, disruptions and outright attacks are increasingly carried out over the Internet. In releasing the strategy, William J. Lynn III, the deputy defense

secretary, disclosed that over the years crucial files stolen from defense and industry data networks have included plans for missile tracking systems, satellite navigation devices, surveillance drones and top-of-the-line jet fighters. (NYT)

Budget Deal in Minnesota

The governor of Minnesota and the state's Republican lawmakers announced on Thursday that they had, at last, reached a deal on the state's budget, bringing what is expected to be a swift reopening of government services. In the end, Mark Dayton, the Democratic governor, and Republican leaders agreed to balance the state's approximately \$35 billion budget by finding an ad-

ditional \$1.4 billion in revenue through some fancy accounting maneuvers — by delaying payments to local school districts and by borrowing money against expected future payments from the tobacco industry. (NYT)

Computer Failure on Shuttle

The shuttle astronauts have dealt with another computer problem aboard Atlantis. After the astronauts went to bed late Thursday afternoon, Mission Control woke them up because of a computer failure in one of the shuttle's five main computers. The crew switched to a backup computer in less than an hour. NASA said the shuttle is in stable condition, and there are no concerns for the crew's safety. (AP)

Google Earnings Top Wall Street Expectations

SAN FRANCISCO — In Internet time, Google, founded in 1998, is ancient. But on Thursday, its financial report suggested that it can successfully become more than a search engine, and compete in a modern Internet world dominated by sharing real-time information with friends and on mobile phones.

Although Google did not break out the numbers from different strands of its business, over all its results were so robust, easily blowing past Wall Street expectations, that analysts said they indicated growing strength in more areas than just search. In after-hours trading, after release of the results, Google's stock price climbed 12.64 percent. It had been down 9 percent for the year.

Part of what also gave Wall Street heart was that Larry Page,

Google's co-founder and new chief executive, participated in the conference call with analysts, and made lengthy remarks about his vision for the company's future for the first time since he took over in April.

"They're firing on all six cylinders now," said Jordan Rohan, an Internet analyst at Stifel Nicolaus, pointing to Google's six businesses — search, display advertising, YouTube, the Chrome browser, the Android mobile operating system and now Google+, its new social network. "Google's now officially a V6."

But other analysts said that while the results proved that Google's core search business was even stronger than they thought, new businesses like Google+ and Android were far from generating revenue, yet

the company continued to spend heavily on them.

"There are some pretty sizable opportunities," said Colin W. Gillis, a technology analyst at BGC Financial. "But you want to own the stock a little closer to the harvesting of the fruit that the expenses bring, and right now they're still being planted."

Page's participation surprised analysts, who had grumbled after last quarter's earnings call when he made a brief and curt comment and declined to speak at length about his long-term vision.

Page is widely known to dislike the public aspects of the chief executive job. But on Thursday, it seemed as if he had attended corporate charm school, as he repeatedly said how excited he was to be on the call.

CLAIRE CAIN MILLER

Europe Looks for Hope in Results of Bank Tests

LONDON — Plummeting bank stocks. Spreading contagion. Policy makers dazed and confused.

Europe's festering debt crisis may well be approaching its own post-Lehman Brothers moment, when fear of the unthinkable finally prompted British and American governments to take radical action and force most of their capital-thin banks to accept government money — whether they liked it or not.

But, to the frustration of many, Europe seems far removed from such a drastic move.

Instead, the euro zone's top banking supervisor will announce on Friday the results of its latest examination into the health of its financial institutions. It is an exercise that an increasingly

desperate European Union hopes will quell investor fears that the region's banks have become too impaired by holdings that may be seriously overvalued to provide the loans needed to stimulate economic growth.

While European finance ministers pledged this week that they would have a backstop plan for vulnerable banks, in practice that task will be left to national banking regulators, who have varying levels of resources and political will.

The banks' stress test results come at a time of cresting market anxiety, spurred in particular by worries of a strike by domestic buyers for Italian government bonds. On Thursday, the yields on two-year Italian bonds — an accu-

rate gauge of short-term market sentiment — were at 4 percent, higher than Spain's and double what they were a year ago. (For Greece, two-year money is available at a rate around 30 percent.)

And the overnight Euribor rate — what banks in Europe charge each other for short-term loans — more than doubled over the last week, to 1.47 percent from 0.6 percent, as banks within the euro zone have become more reluctant to lend to each other.

That is well below the high of around 4 percent reached after the Lehman collapse. But bankers say the jitters in Italy are leading investment banks to demand higher amounts of collateral and cash to back up their loans to Italian counterparties. (NYT)

Food Industry Pushes Back on Ads Aimed at Children

Are Goldfish crackers junk food?

Under proposed new nutritional guidelines, the federal government says yes, and it does not want food like the crackers advertised to children because they contain too much saturated fat and salt and are made from white flour.

But food makers say the fish-shaped treats, made by Campbell Soup's Pepperidge Farm division, belong on a list of healthful foods that can be marketed to children.

The seeming tempest in a fishbowl is typical of a growing tug of war as government and public health advocates tighten pressure on the food industry to fight childhood obesity by making and marketing healthier products.

A group of food manufacturers and restaurant chains announced Thursday that they would revise voluntary standards for cereals, snacks and other foods that they market to children to cut sugars, fats and other ingredients that are unhealthy in large amounts.

But the new guidelines are modest and would not require food makers to change much — two-thirds of the products the companies now advertise meet them. And the levels fall short of standards pushed by regulators.

Another industry initiative, announced a day earlier, is aimed at improving the number of healthful offerings on children's menus at restaurants. Again, the plan set such easy targets that virtually all cooperating chains were meeting the standard. (NYT)

THE MARKETS

DJIA	NASDAQ	S&P 500
↘ 54.49 0.44%	↘ 34.25 1.22%	↘ 8.85 0.67%
12,437.12	2,762.67	1,308.87

EUROPE		
BRITAIN	GERMANY	FRANCE
FTSE 100	DAX	CAC 40
↘ 59.48 1.01%	↘ 53.13 0.73%	Market holiday
5,846.95	7,214.74	

ASIA/PACIFIC		
JAPAN	HONG KONG	CHINA
NIKKEI 225	HANG SENG	SHANGHAI
↘ 27.02 0.27%	↗ 13.32 0.06%	↗ 14.96 0.54%
9,936.12	21,940.20	2,810.44

AMERICAS		
CANADA	BRAZIL	MEXICO
TSX	BOVESPA	BOLSA
↘ 72.02 0.54%	↘ 990.50 1.63%	↘ 90.09 0.25%
13,252.92	59,679.40	36,164.61

COMMODITIES/BONDS		
GOLD	10-YR. TREAS. YIELD	CRUDE OIL
↗ 3.80	↗ 0.07	↘ 2.38
\$1,589.00	2.95%	\$96.11

FOREIGN EXCHANGE		
	Fgn. currency in Dollars	Dollars in fgn. currency
Australia (Dollar)	1.0722	.9327
Bahrain (Dinar)	2.6527	.3770
Brazil (Real)	.6333	1.5790
Britain (Pound)	1.6139	.6196
Canada (Dollar)	1.0412	.9604
China (Yuan)	.1548	6.4590
Denmark (Krone)	.1897	5.2728
Dom. Rep. (Peso)	.0265	37.7500
Egypt (Pound)	.1680	5.9530
Europe (Euro)	1.4142	.7071
Hong Kong (Dollar)	.1284	7.7876
Japan (Yen)	.0126	79.1200
Mexico (Peso)	.0853	11.7190
Norway (Krone)	.1803	5.5473
Singapore (Dollar)	.8216	1.2171
So. Africa (Rand)	.1467	6.8175
So. Korea (Won)	.0009	1,057.3
Sweden (Krona)	.1539	6.4998
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2256	.8159

Source: Thomson Reuters

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A Little Known Lobbyist, in a Pivotal Role

WASHINGTON — An unexpected voice dominated a closed-door meeting a few months ago on Capitol Hill, where senior Senate aides were discussing the financial regulatory overhaul adopted last summer.

It was not a lawmaker, or a Congressional staff member. It was a Wall Street lobbyist.

Within minutes of arriving, Steve Bartlett, the head of a group representing 100 of the nation's largest financial institutions, was deriding a plan aimed at limiting the fees that banks charge retail stores on debit-card purchases.

Bartlett, wearing ostrich leather cowboy boots, barked orders to surprised Congressional staff members, urging them to delay the rule, according to two people who attended.

Though little known outside Washington and Wall Street, Bartlett has played a pivotal role with other lobbyists in their fierce and frenetic behind-the-scenes effort that has delayed or watered down many of the major regulatory changes passed by Congress

after the financial meltdown.

Wall Street has spent nearly \$52 million to woo Washington in the first three months of the year, up 10 percent from the previous quarter, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Bartlett's organization, the deep-pocketed Financial Services Roundtable, spent \$2.5 million in that period, more than any group focused on the Dodd-Frank regulatory overhaul law, including Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase.

By Bartlett's reckoning, Wall Street is not trying to dismantle the financial regulation enacted under the Dodd-Frank Act a year ago this month. Rather, as he explained in his Texas twang, "We are trying to reform the reform."

That is not how critics of Wall Street see it. Ted Kaufman, the former Democratic senator from Delaware who helped draft Dodd-Frank, lamented Wall Street's heavy spending in Washington, saying, "this is the most uneven battle since Little Big Horn."

Bartlett, a former congressman who earns about \$2 million a year

as the roundtable's chief executive, has helped lead the charge.

At one point in the battle over the debit-card fees, Bartlett said, he urged the G.O.P. head of the House subcommittee that oversees banking to do her duty as chairwoman by introducing legislation to delay any changes. A few weeks later, he visited his friend, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who co-authored the overhaul law, to get support for the delay.

In February, the roundtable sponsored "Financial Services University," a conference for Congressional staff members, where "visiting professors" gave presentations on Dodd-Frank. A top executive at Visa addressed caps on debit-card fees, according to a copy of the agenda. The associate general counsel for Bank of America discussed mortgage rules.

Bartlett, 63, called the event educational. "We are not here to lobby," he told roughly 200 attendees. "We're here to tell you what the facts are, and we think you'll ultimately agree with us."

BEN PROTESS

The Real Pooh Returns to the Hundred-Acre Wood

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood's formula for freshening up old cartoon characters like Alvin and the Chipmunks and the Smurfs goes something like this: Reformulate them in 3-D, give them a skateboard and sunglasses, add some dance moves and inundate children and their nostalgic parents with advertising.

And it has worked with one very notable exception. Winnie the Pooh. In 2007, the Walt Disney Company followed the blueprint, abandoning the character's gentle hand-drawn look in favor of slick Pixar-style animation. Pooh got a scooter and a superhero outfit. Christopher Robin was jettisoned in favor of a 6-year-old tomboy named Darby.

As it turned out, nobody wanted to see Eeyore breakdance.

So Disney is re-introducing the classic Pooh characters across its empire, most notably in a new movie that arrives in theaters on Friday. It is a bid to capture a generation more accustomed to the special effects wizardry of Harry Potter, the smart-alecky know-it-all of "Kung Fu Panda" and the fast pace of "Cars 2." Because Pooh has been one of the first



WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Disney hopes children today will love the classical characters of Winnie the Pooh.

characters that parents introduce to their children, Disney is reverting to what it does best — pushing the nostalgia button.

The new movie, titled simply "Winnie the Pooh," begins with a live-action sequence in Christopher Robin's room and then becomes animated once the camera dives into a storybook, returning the characters to their old-fashioned, slower, water-colored roots. "We are constantly trying to evolve our characters, but in this case we want to get away from trying to make Winnie the Pooh in any way modern," said

Mary Beech, a Disney vice president and steward of the Pooh brand.

The stakes are high for Disney. Global sales of Pooh merchandise — books, plush toys, T-shirts, potty chairs — have fallen 12 percent over the last five years, but still account for a staggering \$5.5 billion.

And, at a time when first graders watch Disney's PG-13 rated "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies, will simplicity sell? The answer may not come on opening weekend. Disney is risking box office suicide by releasing "Winnie the Pooh" against the final Harry Potter installment.

"It sounds crazy, but as a G-rated film you can do a lot more matinee business in the summer," said Don Hall, co-director with Stephen J. Anderson. "And this is not just about making a successful movie." BROOKS BARNES



MOST ACTIVE, GAINERS AND LOSERS

Stock (TICKER)	Close	Chg	% Chg	Volume (100)
12 MOST ACTIVE				
Bank of Am (BAC)	10.07	-0.13	-1.3	1462728
Sirius XM (SIRI)	2.25	0.00	+0.2	1331005
News Corp (NWSA)	15.44	-0.50	-3.1	748100
JPMorgan C (JPM)	40.35	+0.73	+1.8	649242
Sprint Nex (S)	5.29	-0.12	-2.2	491404
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	15.43	-0.14	-0.9	482427
Intel Corp (INTC)	22.27	-0.21	-0.9	466532
Microsoft (MSFT)	26.47	+0.67	+2.6	455582
Ford Motor (F)	13.09	-0.18	-1.4	455079
General El (GE)	18.53	+0.02	+0.1	431920
ConocoPhill (COP)	75.61	+1.21	+1.6	424052
Capital On (COF)	48.75	-2.12	-4.2	398521

Stock (TICKER)	Close	Chg	% Chg	Volume (100)
12 TOP GAINERS				
Prolar Bio (PBTH)	6.01	+0.97	+19.2	4644
Sorl Auto (SORL)	5.07	+0.65	+14.7	4494
Clean Ener (CLNE)	17.01	+1.93	+12.8	88684
US Gold Co (UXG)	6.66	+0.62	+10.3	44977
Gold Resou (GORO)	25.31	+2.28	+9.9	6023
Zagg Inc (ZAGG)	14.36	+1.20	+9.1	46708
Idenix Pha (IDIX)	6.10	+0.50	+8.9	5516
SINA Corp (SINA)	114.54	+9.38	+8.9	83177
Richmont M (RIC)	8.37	+0.66	+8.6	6166
LinkedIn C (LNKD)	107.87	+8.37	+8.4	30596
Neophoton (NPTN)	7.88	+0.60	+8.2	2254
Citizens C (CZWI)	6.23	+0.47	+8.2	58

Stock (TICKER)	Close	Chg	% Chg	Volume (100)
12 TOP LOSERS				
Coffee Hol (JVA)	18.89	-4.16	-18.0	33936
Exterro Go (XG)	13.00	-2.16	-14.2	9408
Perfumaria (PERF)	13.00	-2.05	-13.6	54
RTI Intern (RTI)	32.66	-4.79	-12.8	29732
MEDTOX Sci (MTOX)	15.33	-2.13	-12.2	913
Hampton Ro (HMPR)	8.10	-0.93	-10.3	626
Zhongpin I (HOGS)	10.15	-1.14	-10.1	17599
Clean Ener (CLNE)	15.34	-1.67	-9.8	57306
Autochina (AUTC)	22.97	-2.19	-8.7	53
NGP Capita (NGPC)	8.21	-0.76	-8.5	1695
Advance Am (AEA)	8.32	-0.76	-8.4	25393
Vinnex Ho (VHC)	35.15	-3.21	-8.4	25001

Source: Thomson Reuters

Stocks on the Move

Google Inc. (GOOG) jumped 11 percent to \$585.50. The owner of the world's largest Internet search engine reported sales and profit that topped analysts' estimates, a sign that the company is benefiting from an effort to expand into mobile and display advertising.

EBay Inc. (EBAY), the world's largest online marketplace, rose 1.8 percent to \$32.78. **Yahoo! Inc.** (YHOO US) gained 2 percent to \$14.92.

Flir Systems Inc. (FLIR) slipped 8 percent to \$29.55. The maker of night-vision cameras used by U.S. combat forces reported second-quarter profit excluding some items of 35 cents a share, trailing the average analyst estimate by 4 cents.

Ralcorp Holdings Inc. (RAH) fell 4 percent to \$83.15. The maker of Raisin Bran and Grape-Nuts cereal plans to spin off Post Foods after failing to sell the unit to rival foodmakers.

Vical Inc. (VICL) surged 10 percent to \$4.75. The drugmaker entered a license agreement with Astellas Pharma Inc. to develop TransVax, a vaccine against cytomegalovirus reactivation in transplant recipients. (Bloomberg)



MILAN TRENC

Budget Excursions for Volunteers

A deluxe room at the luxurious Snake River Lodge & Spa in Jackson, Wyo., typically goes for \$385 a night, but it can be reserved for as low as \$192 this fall. The catch: In order to qualify for the discount, travelers must

PRACTICAL TRAVELER

Michelle Higgins

agree to spend a portion of their vacation taking down barbed wire fences so local wildlife can roam more freely.

These days, it seems that just about every travel organization has a volunteer component, whether it is tracking iguanas on Grand Cayman or doling out food at soup kitchens in Moscow. While it's great to give back to the communities you visit, programs that offer vacationers a discount in exchange for their efforts are harder to find. Sure, there are traditional long-term volunteer programs dating back to the Peace Corps that allow you to see the world for a small wage by pitching in on local projects. But those programs typically require travelers to devote significant time to the program.

Still, it's possible to find a program that not only fits your vacation schedule but also gives you a little something in return for your time. A good place to start your search is FlyforGood.com, which offers an online trip finder that connects volunteers with humanitarian nonprofit organizations that have been vetted by nonprofit watchdog associations. The site also offers volunteers airfare discounts of 10 to 25 percent off published rates. "Our goal is to try to make it more accessible and cheaper so more people can volunteer," said Ryan Skoog, president of FlyforGood.

Here are some options for the budget-conscious volunteer traveler. (Remember that you have to pay for your own airfare.)

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB This conservation organization offers volunteer trail cleanup programs in a variety of locations, from the White Mountains in New

Hampshire to the Virgin Islands, for as low as \$220 a week for those who are not club members. The price covers meals and rustic lodging, typically cabins, canvas tents on platforms or bunkhouses. *What You Get:* A super-cheap vacation. On St. John, for example, volunteers stay in 10-by-14-foot tents with a solid floor and mosquito netting for \$330 a week, or roughly \$55 a night (tourists pay about \$90 a night). Volunteers work about four to six hours a day carrying 20 to 30 pounds of tools and materials, clearing drainage ditches, brushing back vegetation and building rock stairs. Afternoons are free for swimming, snorkeling or lounging on the beach.

CROSS-CULTURAL SOLUTIONS In addition to more traditional long-term volunteer initiatives, Cross-Cultural Solutions offers one-week trips in eight countries including Brazil, Costa Rica and Ghana, as part of its Insight Abroad program. Roughly 240 people each paid about \$1,990 last summer to paint schoolyards, plant vegetable gardens at centers for the elderly and work at day care centers. *What You Get:* A tax deduction. Program fees are 100 percent tax-deductible for many U.S. residents, according to the company, which is an independent nonprofit organization.

MARCO ISLAND MARRIOTT RESORT, GOLF CLUB & SPA This Southwest Florida resort has teamed with organizations like the YMCA and Habitat for Humanity to offer guests the opportunity to pitch in with local projects while on vacation. At the Y, volunteers are expected to put in at least two hours of time performing varied maintenance projects or general sprucing up of the facilities. Every third Saturday, guests are invited to join hotel employees working with Habitat for Humanity on local housing projects. Interested guests must call the hotel's Vacation Planners at (800) 638-8410 to make arrangements. *What You Get:* 15 percent off room rates through Sept. 30.

Scalpers Buy Up Yosemite Permits

At Yosemite National Park, campers are battling more than pesky mosquitoes. They also have to contend with scalpers trying to make a fast buck by reselling campsites and wilderness permits online. Reservations for some of the park's 900 campsites have lately been fetching \$100 or more per night, many times the \$20 the national park service charges on its Web site, recreation.gov.

Scalpers have also been reselling permits to climb Half Dome, where a newly imposed limit of 400 hikers a day has made the \$1.50 permits a hot commodity.

But the problem is not only illegal profiteering. With scalpers swooping up blocks of tickets as soon as they go on sale, campers are also finding it harder than ever to make travel plans and reserve the dates they need. The problem has led to a crackdown by Yosemite rangers, who are requiring travelers to show identification that matches the name on the campsite reservation and prohibiting name changes on reservations. (NYT)



PETER DASILVA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Reservations for some campsites have been fetching \$100 or more per night.

Center Brings Poetry To New Audiences

Chicago's literary heritage and reputation for design meet in the new Poetry Foundation center (poetryfoundation.org).

Opened on June 25, the 22,000-square-foot center aims to fulfill the foundation's mission of engaging new audiences in poetry. The 30,000-volume nonlending library, including a children's collection and two listening rooms where visitors can hear recordings of poets reciting their work, is open to the public. A 125-seat performance space has already held readings by the novelist Sandra Cisneros and the poet Robert Hass and a concert by Neko Case, with upcoming appearances by the poets Terrance Hayes and Charles Bernstein scheduled for fall.

The largely glass-walled, two-story building, designed by the Chicago firm John Ronan Architects, is worth a trip for design fans, too. A perforated metal shell surrounds a tranquil, tree-dotted terrace ideal for urban timeouts, whether they include verse or not. (NYT)

Baboon Study Shows Benefits for Nice Guys, Who Finish 2nd

At last, good news for the beta male.

From the wild to Wall Street, as everyone knows, the alpha male runs the show, enjoying power over other males and, as a field biologist might put it, the best access to mating opportunities.

The beta is No. 2 in the wolf pack or the baboon troop, not such a bad position. But conversationally, the term has become an almost derisive label for the nice guy, the good boy all grown up, the husband women look for after the fling with Russell Crowe.

It may now be time to take a step back from alpha worship. Field biologists, the people who gave the culture the alpha/beta trope in the first place, have found there can be a big

downside to being No. 1.

Laurence R. Gesquiere, a research associate in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton, and colleagues report in the journal *Science* that in five troops of wild baboons in Kenya studied for nine years, alpha males showed very high stress levels, as high as those of the lowest-ranking males. The stress, they suggested, was probably due to the demands of fighting off challengers and guarding access to fertile females. Beta males, who fought less and had less guarding to do, had much lower stress levels. The betas did get some mating in. After all, when the alpha gets in another baboon bar fight, who's going to take the girl home?

The study is impressive and surprising, said Robert Sapolsky of Stanford, a neurobiologist who did groundbreaking studies on stress in baboons and was not involved in the new study. "What's cool about this paper is that being an alpha and being a beta are very different experiences physiologically."

"It's a wonderful sample size over many, many years," said Robert M. Seyfarth of the University of Pennsylvania, who studies baboon and other primate behavior.

Seyfarth, who was not part of the new research, said it shows "the males at the top are under a lot of stress, and there's a cost."

Earlier work by Sapolsky showed that in baboons, the lower the social rank, the greater the stress. The one exception was during periods of instability, when top males faced many challenges and their stress increased. It was good to be king, he found, but a lot better when the realm was quiet. The new study showed that top-ranking males had higher levels of stress whether the social structure of their group was stable or in tumult. Researchers collected fecal samples to measure levels of stress hormones called glucocorticoids.

In the short term, in immediate fight-or-flight situations, the hormones work to energize the individual. Long-term stress levels are a different matter. "In the long term, you fall apart, or are subject to diseases," said Jeanne Altmann, an emeritus professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton, and senior author of the new report.

While the study does not have a direct application to human health or social structure, Sapolsky and Seyfarth said, it raises questions about unstudied costs of being at the top.

And it suggests some reproductive strategies among baboons that may be worth thinking about for the majority of men who plan for the future, worry about gas mileage and slip out the back when the fighting starts.

What if, Seyfarth said, the beta males are hanging around and doing "pretty well for a long time, rather than very well for a short time?"

JAMES GORMAN

CROSSWORD Edited By Will Shortz

ACROSS

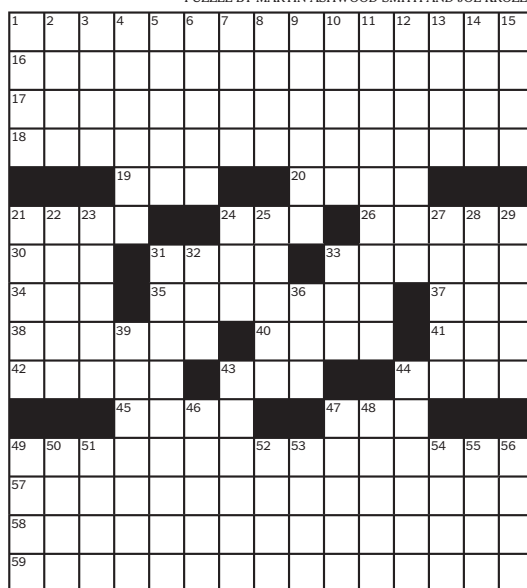
- 1 Dispense with courtesy
- 16 1970 film with much Sioux dialogue
- 17 Game that kids fall for
- 18 They often need polishing
- 19 Dark time for bards
- 20 Reggae artist —-Mouse
- 21 Fugitives' flights
- 24 Situation in which nobody is up
- 26 "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the ____" (Emmy-winning reality show)
- 30 According to
- 31 Direction for a whaler?
- 33 Craze of 2005-06
- 34 Sharp turn
- 35 Diverts, in a way
- 37 Word often pig-Latinized
- 38 Put up with
- 40 Get out of
- 41 Red state?

- 42 Digital camera maker
- 43 Penpoint
- 44 Makes a scene?
- 45 Epidemic
- 47 Basics of learning, briefly
- 49 Some firebirds
- 57 Government grant?
- 58 Tons to do
- 59 Is absurd

DOWN

- 1 Zoo keepers?
- 2 Issue
- 3 Frederiksborg resident
- 4 Artist with a self-named museum in Montauban, France
- 5 Run from a pianist
- 6 Very eager, informally
- 7 University near Burlington
- 8 Lie-abed
- 9 Thought about the Louvre?
- 10 Money making hits
- 11 School board output?

PUZZLE BY MARTIN ASHWOOD-SMITH AND JOE KROZEL



7/15/11 (No. 0715)

- 12 Nora's husband in "A Doll's House"
- 13 Wood-cleaving tool
- 14 Amer. ally in W.W. II
- 15 Simon who wrote "The Death of Napoleon"
- 21 Talent agent Swiftly
- 22 Out for a trial
- 23 Potter's field?
- 24 ____ Mahal
- 25 Like some dinars
- 27 Counterpart of covalent
- 28 Evade
- 29 They often come with vests
- 31 Wyndham alternative, familiarly
- 32 Lay low
- 33 Runner for the hills
- 36 Den delivery
- 39 Family in a Dickens novel
- 43 Former AOL competitor
- 44 Diamond pattern
- 46 Boxing play
- 47 Pancreatic enzyme
- 48 Isn't clear in speech, maybe
- 49 Fokker foe
- 50 Home of Steamboat Spgs.
- 51 Hyacinth relative
- 52 Lake ____ (Blue Nile source)
- 53 Film director Keshishian
- 54 Style
- 55 Metaphorical low points
- 56 "Luff, you lubber" speaker of literature

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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EDITORIALS OF THE TIMES

The Debt Alarm Is Heard

As negotiators in the debt-ceiling talks sputtered and raged, the chill reality of an imminent government default crept up Wednesday and made a mockery of their gamesmanship. Two major rating agencies warned that a once-unthinkable downgrade of the nation's credit rating could occur if this crisis was not defused.

That finally punctured the careless notion, popularized by Tea Party lawmakers like Michele Bachmann and Louie Gohmert, that default would be a minor inconvenience. Standard & Poor's said a downgrade could occur if any required payments were missed, even if bondholders were paid first. Moody's said a new process for dealing with the debt ceiling was needed. Although the bond markets have yet to be roiled, there are indications China and other investors are beginning to get nervous.

The alarms could not be much louder, but myth-making is impeding a deal.

Many House Republicans persist in acting as though they are doing President Obama a favor by considering a debt-ceiling increase at all, and that in exchange they should get all the spending cuts they want. The debt ceiling is an artificial method of keeping an eye on borrowing that Congress imposed nearly a century ago. The president didn't "ask" for an increase; he simply reminded Congress that the authority to continue borrowing had run out because of spending already incurred, largely because of wars, the recession, growing entitlement programs and the Bush tax cuts.

The debate about the nature of government cannot be held in a matter of days while the na-

tion's credit rating hangs in the balance. There is too much pride and politics in the way.

Republicans began the hostage-taking to achieve their ideological goal of shrinking government, resisting all attempts at compromise involving new tax revenues. The White House tried to impress independent voters with its own spending-cut proposals, and to salvage some stimulus measures. The ceiling was never very wise, but until now it has been used only to give Congress a voice in government borrowing, not as a radioactive weapon.

At last, a few senior Republicans have started to realize that the weapon, used in this way, is too powerful to be controlled. Mitch McConnell, the Senate Republican leader, said default would be bad for his party's "brand" and would allow Obama to shift blame for the poor economy onto Republicans.

A default would expose the G.O.P. role in creating the economic crisis. Republicans have not only consented to the skyrocketing deficit, they have blocked any consideration of programs to put Americans back to work, all while blaming high unemployment on Obama.

McConnell knows such sophistry would be impossible if a default caused the economy to collapse. That is why he has proposed an escape hatch, allowing the debt ceiling to be lifted without required spending cuts as long as all blame falls on Obama. Though McConnell's concern is partisan and parochial, others at the table should seize his idea, or some of the variations being discussed, if they care about the brand of the United States.

More Horrors in Mumbai

India's government showed extraordinary restraint after Pakistani terrorists killed more than 160 people in Mumbai in 2008. The fear since then has been that another attack could spark a war between the two countries, rivals with nuclear weapons.

On Wednesday, Mumbai suffered three more bomb blasts in which 17 people died. Many crucial facts, including the identity of the killers, are not yet known. Indian citizens deserve answers to their many legitimate questions. So far, Indian officials seem to be reacting in a measured and responsible way.

Pakistani leaders condemned the bombings. But words are cheap. They need to work with their Indian counterparts to find whoever is responsible. If Pakistanis were behind this latest horror, Islamabad must ensure that they are brought to justice this time.

Pakistani officials previously acknowledged that the 2008 attacks were partly planned on their soil by Pakistani extremists. Instead of cooperating with India's investigation, they insisted on handling the case themselves. Pakistan has four suspects in custody, but the trial is moving too slowly to be considered credible.

By Thursday, no group had claimed respon-

sibility for the latest attack. And with so much riding on it, Indian officials were right to not jump to conclusions. "We are not pointing a finger at this stage," said Palaniappan Chidambaram, India's home minister. A senior U.S. law enforcement official said early signs suggested the culprits could be India-based militants.

After 2008, relations between India and Pakistan plunged into a dangerous two-year freeze. The countries recently revived a dialogue; we are encouraged that Indian officials say they plan to proceed with talks set for later this month. President Obama has offered American investigative help to India. He and his advisers also need to be having blunt talks with Pakistan about the cost of more foot-dragging.

Indians are angry and asking why their government did not ensure their safety. Indian officials say they have made security reforms but it may never be possible to stop all terrorist attacks. That is true, but New Delhi must learn from this experience and keep trying to perfect its intelligence and counterterrorism efforts.

After the 2008 attacks, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh warned that his country would retaliate if hit again. We applaud his continued restraint and urge both sides to think hard about the horrifying cost of a war.

PAUL KRUGMAN

Getting to Crazy

There aren't many positive aspects to the looming possibility of a U.S. debt default. But there has been, I have to admit, an element of comic relief — of the black-humor variety — in the spectacle of so many people who have been in denial waking up and smelling the crazy.

A number of commentators seem shocked at how unreasonable Republicans are being. "Has the G.O.P. gone insane?" they ask.

Why, yes, it has. Anyone surprised by the extremism and irresponsibility now on display either hasn't been paying attention, or has been deliberately turning a blind eye.

And may I say to those suddenly agonizing over the mental health of one of our two major parties: People like you bear some responsibility for that party's current state.

President Obama has made it clear that he's willing to sign on to a deficit-reduction deal that consists overwhelmingly of spending cuts, and includes draconian cuts in key social programs, up to and including a rise in the age of Medicare eligibility. These are extraordinary concessions. As The Times's Nate Silver points out, Obama has offered deals that are far to the right of what the average American voter prefers — if anything, they're a bit to the right of what the average G.O.P. voter prefers!

Yet Republicans are saying no. Indeed, they're threatening to force a U.S. default, and create an economic crisis, unless they get a completely one-sided deal.

First of all, the modern G.O.P. fundamentally does not accept the legitimacy of a Democratic presidency — any Democratic presidency. As a result, Republicans are against anything the president wants, even if they have supported similar proposals in the past. Beyond that, voodoo economics has taken over the G.O.P.

Supply-side voodoo — which claims that tax cuts pay for themselves and/or that any rise in taxes would lead to economic collapse — has been a force within the G.O.P. since Ronald Reagan embraced the concept of the Laffer curve. But even the administration of former President George W. Bush refrained from making extravagant claims about tax-cut magic.

Recently, however, all restraint has vanished — indeed, it has been driven out of the party.

Here's the point: those within the G.O.P. who had misgivings about the embrace of tax-cut fanaticism might have made a stand if there had been any indication such fanaticism came with a price. But there has been no such price.

Bush squandered the surplus of the late Clinton years, yet prominent pundits pretend that the two parties share equal blame for our debt problems. Paul Ryan, the chairman of the House Budget Committee, proposed a supposed deficit-reduction plan that included huge tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, then received an award for fiscal responsibility.

So there has been no pressure on the G.O.P. to show any kind of responsibility, or even rationality — and sure enough, it has gone off the deep end. If you're surprised, that means that you were part of the problem.

An Amateur Secures Share of Lead With a 65

In Brief

SANDWICH, England — The arc of European Tour dominance in major championship golf, which began at the 2010 United States Open with the surprise victory of Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell, did not merely continue Thursday in the first round of the British Open at Royal St. George's. It also got younger.

At the end of a first round that began gray and windblown and ended sunny and calm, hours after Thomas Bjorn of Denmark had shot a five-under-par 65 to top a leader board loaded with Europeans, the 20-year-old English amateur Tom Lewis matched Bjorn's 65 and became the first amateur to gain a share of the British Open lead since Sir Michael Bonallack in 1968 at Troon.

It may be way too early for 22-year-old Rory McIlroy to be hearing the footsteps of younger

players, but for one day, as the poised and polished Lewis discussed his round in the media center, McIlroy may have been feeling a little less sanguine about his routine round of one-over-par 71.

It was a startling show by Lewis, who was playing with Tom Watson, the man his father named him after. It also was an appropriate bookend to a day that first belonged to Bjorn, 40, who only got into the field on Monday as the sixth alternate after Vijay Singh withdrew.

Bjorn and Lewis, two decades apart in age, have built part of their golf résumé at Royal St. George's, where Bjorn nearly won the 2003 Open only to collapse down the stretch, and where Lewis won the 2009 English Boys Amateur.

A fair-haired youngster whose dyslexia hastened his decision to quit school at 16 to pursue golf,

Lewis showed that he made a sound decision. He birdied five holes in a row — the 13th through the 17th — and finished with a solid par at the difficult 18th to tie Bjorn for the lead and for the lowest first-round score in an Open at Royal St. George's since Cristy O'Connor Jr. opened with a 64 in 1985.

Lewis was asked whether he could have imagined shooting 65, or being tied for the lead, at the beginning of the tournament.

"Obviously it's one day," Lewis said. "I'm going to have to play just as well as I did today tomorrow. I'm sure I'm not going to shoot four 65s."

Then, with a smile lifting the corners of his mouth, he added, with great timing, "And if I did, I will be winning."

That broke up the room.

LARRY DORMAN

N.F.L. Labor Talks Clear Major Hurdle

An agreement in principle that would end the four-month-long N.F.L. lockout is within reach after negotiators for players and owners finally settled on a rookie wage system, clearing one of the last major hurdles that had separated the sides, a person briefed on negotiations said Thursday. While an agreement on Friday may still be a long shot, the person said players and owners are closer than they have ever been to completing a deal. (NYT)

N.B.A. Layoffs Pare 100-Plus Employees

More than 100 N.B.A. employees were laid off this week, underlining the league's sense of economic distress as the owners and players haggle over a new labor agreement. All told, 114 positions — 11 percent of the league's work force — were eliminated from nearly every division, including marketing, community relations, player programs, broadcasting and information technology. Most received the news Wednesday and Thursday. (NYT)

Clemens's Perjury Case Quickly Ends in a Mistrial

WASHINGTON — The federal judge presiding over Roger Clemens's perjury case declared a mistrial on Thursday, saying the government made a fatal misstep even a "first-year law student" would have avoided when it presented inadmissible testimony that prejudiced the jury against Clemens.

U.S. District Court Judge Reggie Walton set a hearing for Sept. 2 to decide whether the case should be retried.

"He is entitled to a fair trial and, in my view, he can't get it now, and that was caused by the government," Walton said, later apologizing to the jury for wasting its

time and the government's money on a trial that had only begun on Wednesday. The case has lasted more than three years and has involved more than 100 law enforcement officials.

Instead of admonishing the prosecutors for their error and instructing the jury to disregard what they had heard, Walton deemed the situation so troublesome that he ended the much-anticipated trial of one of baseball's greatest pitchers.

Clemens — the former Red Sox, Blue Jays, Yankees and Astros pitcher who won a record seven Cy Young Awards in his career — was facing criminal charges of perjury,

false statements and obstruction of Congress in connection to his 2008 assertions to Congress that he never used steroids or human growth hormone. If convicted on all charges, he would have faced a maximum of 30 years in prison.

Exiting the courthouse, Clemens shook hands with several security guards.

"I'm not going to say anything," Clemens said before signing several autographs for Red Sox fans and hugging another fan.

Rusty Hardin, Clemens's lead lawyer, smiled and said, "It's a beautiful day," but stopped there because of the gag order placed on the case. JULIET MACUR

BASEBALL — A.L.

THURSDAY

Cleveland 8, Baltimore 4
Toronto 16, Yankees 7
Minnesota 8, Kansas City 4

BASEBALL — N.L.

THURSDAY

Florida 6, Chicago Cubs 3

WEATHER

High/low temperatures for the 21 hours ended at 4 p.m. yesterday, Eastern time, and precipitation (in inches) for the 18 hours ended at 1 p.m. yesterday. Expected conditions for today and tomorrow.

Weather conditions: C-clouds, F-fog, H-haze, I-ice, PC-partly cloudy, R-rain, S-sun, Sh-showers, Sn-snow, SS-snow showers, T-thunderstorms, Tr-trace, W-windy.

U.S. CITIES

	Yesterday	Today	Tomorrow
Albuquerque	92/69 0	94/71 T	95/70 W
Atlanta	92/77 0.17	86/70 T	84/71 T
Boise	84/59 0	86/61 PC	88/58 PC
Boston	73/63 0	82/65 S	85/69 S
Buffalo	82/57 0	82/62 S	87/68 S
Charlotte	90/71 0	86/67 PC	86/67 T
Chicago	82/59 0	83/65 PC	90/71 PC
Cleveland	81/61 0	84/65 PC	88/69 PC
Dallas-Ft. Worth	105/84 0	104/80 PC	102/80 S
Denver	89/58 0.18	90/63 T	95/65 T
Detroit	81/58 0	84/65 PC	88/70 PC

Houston	99/81 0
Kansas City	91/75 0
Los Angeles	74/62 0
Miami	92/78 0
Mpls.-St. Paul	74/65 0.18
New York City	83/64 0
Orlando	94/77 Tr
Philadelphia	85/67 0
Phoenix	101/77 0
Salt Lake City	90/66 0
San Francisco	64/55 0
Seattle	64/56 0.06
St. Louis	89/70 0
Washington	85/68 0

FOREIGN CITIES

	Yesterday	Today	Tomorrow
Acapulco	90/77 0.08	86/75 T	88/75 T
Athens	97/78 0	90/78 S	98/79 S
Beijing	90/73 0	84/73 T	83/73 T
Berlin	72/61 0	71/54 PC	75/64 PC
Buenos Aires	62/47 0.01	66/46 Sh	59/41 PC
Cairo	100/78 0	100/75 S	97/75 S

97/77 T	97/76 T
96/76 S	99/76 S
74/63 PC	75/64 PC
91/80 T	92/80 T
87/76 T	93/77 T
83/68 S	85/70 S
94/75 T	93/75 T
86/68 S	89/70 S
100/82 S	106/86 S
88/62 S	92/65 W
63/54 PC	65/55 PC
70/55 PC	69/55 Sh
92/73 PC	94/77 S
85/67 PC	86/71 S

Cape Town	73/50 0
Dublin	71/47 0.01
Geneva	72/54 0
Hong Kong	88/81 0.26
Kingston	87/77 0
Lima	67/55 0.01
London	75/53 0
Madrid	84/55 0
Mexico City	69/55 0.47
Montreal	81/55 Tr
Moscow	81/57 0
Nassau	92/75 0.07
Paris	73/47 0.01
Prague	67/60 0.03
Rio de Janeiro	80/64 0
Rome	83/72 0
Santiago	59/32 0.01
Stockholm	70/45 0
Sydney	58/40 0
Tokyo	90/76 0
Toronto	81/61 0
Vancouver	68/57 0.07
Warsaw	85/65 0.05

71/47 S	75/50 PC
63/52 R	59/50 R
75/56 PC	74/60 PC
84/79 R	84/79 R
87/79 T	89/79 Sh
63/53 S	64/54 PC
70/55 Sh	64/50 R
84/63 PC	88/64 PC
73/55 T	73/55 T
82/61 S	84/71 S
81/67 PC	86/64 S
90/81 PC	91/80 T
74/53 C	75/57 R
72/54 PC	76/58 PC
83/72 S	86/72 S
82/59 S	83/64 S
48/36 R	48/27 R
66/57 R	70/59 PC
61/45 Sh	60/42 Sh
91/75 S	89/80 S
82/64 PC	87/75 S
65/59 Sh	67/57 Sh
74/56 R	73/55 PC

A Golfer's Reversal of Fortunes at St. George's

SANDWICH, England — People have been tiptoeing around Thomas Bjorn and his memories of Royal St. George's for eight years now.

How else to react in a mind game like golf when someone's mind betrays him so completely?

"Obviously, what happened to him you don't wish on anybody," Ben Curtis said earlier this week.

Curtis, if anyone, could be excused for feeling just fine about how it worked out here in 2003. If not for Bjorn's blowing a three-shot lead with four holes to play, if not for that greenside bunker on No. 16, Curtis would not have won the British Open as a 26-year-old major championship debutant with no links course experience.

Bjorn, to put it bluntly, earned Curtis millions, and Bjorn kept paying the price for his blown opportunity, even quitting in the middle of a round at the European Open a year later because golf had become too much to bear.

"When I stood on the first tee, I just saw trouble everywhere," he said in 2004. "The fairway looked tiny and the green seemed to be the size of the hole. It was uncomfortable and I just thought, I can't be here. There was nothing but fear."

Professional golf is cruel and kind in that longer careers give its practitioners more time than in other sports: more time to dwell



ADRIAN DENNIS/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Thomas Bjorn, the co-leader, on the 18th tee on Thursday.

on former failures, more time to climb out of such deep pits. And, on Thursday, golf had quite a sense of timing as Bjorn, playing his first round at St. George's since his implosion, soared to the top of the leader board in the early English morning and stayed there, grabbing a share of the lead with Tom Lewis at five-under-par 65.

"I'm 40 years old, and there might just be a little bit more in me," Bjorn said.

Britons and Bjorn's fellow Danes who had not set foot on the hill country terrain of Royal St. George's since 2003 must have wondered whether they had tramped into a time warp.

Despite all the inevitable "Bjorn Again" headlines on the Internet, there was no mistaking this Bjorn for that Bjorn. He is less combustible now, heavier around the middle, visibly hunched by some of

the blows he has been required to absorb, including the death of his father in May from lung disease.

Speaking to that after his round Thursday seemed harder for Bjorn than shooting a 65 in a place bristling with bad memories. Asked whether he had considered how proud his father would have been of this performance, Bjorn was caught by surprise. He tried twice to respond and failed, but though Lynn Wallace, the news conference moderator, asked him if he wanted to move on to another question, he persevered.

"Well, he meant a lot to me," Bjorn said as he fought through tears. "He would have been very proud of what I did today. That's all I've really got to say."

It was poignancy defined, and there will probably be more poignancy to come for Bjorn.

The odds of his holding his share of that slim lead for three more rounds on this physically demanding course at this stage of his career might not be as long as the odds of Curtis winning the Open here in 2003.

But redemptive victory is still an uphill prospect.

"I don't, at the moment, play the golf that I used to, but I did today," Bjorn said. "There's a lot of issues that go on with what happens in a golf career, but I look ahead and I always look ahead."

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY

M.L.B. STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	55	35	.611	—
Yankees	53	36	.596	1½
Tampa Bay	49	41	.544	6
Toronto	46	47	.495	10½
Baltimore	36	53	.404	18½
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	48	42	.533	—
Detroit	49	43	.533	—
Chicago	44	48	.478	5
Minnesota	42	48	.467	6
Kansas City	37	55	.402	12
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	51	41	.554	—
Los Angeles	50	42	.543	1
Seattle	43	48	.473	7½
Oakland	39	53	.424	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	57	34	.626	—
Atlanta	54	38	.587	3½
Mets	46	45	.505	11
Washington	46	46	.500	11½
Florida	44	48	.478	13½
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	49	43	.533	—
St. Louis	49	43	.533	—
Pittsburgh	47	43	.522	1
Cincinnati	45	47	.489	4
Chicago	37	56	.398	12½
Houston	30	62	.326	19
West	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	52	40	.565	—
Arizona	49	43	.533	3
Colorado	43	48	.473	8½
Los Angeles	41	51	.446	11
San Diego	40	52	.435	12

Linebacker Apologizes For Slurring Goodell

Pittsburgh linebacker James Harrison apologized Thursday for using an anti-gay slur to refer to N.F.L. Commissioner Roger Goodell in an interview with "Men's Journal," and says his critical statements about teammates were taken out of context.

Harrison posted a statement on his Twitter account.

In the article, the Steelers' star criticized Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and running back Rashard Mendenhall for their play in last season's Super Bowl loss to Green Bay.

Harrison called Mendenhall a "fumble machine" for his fourth-quarter turnover and said Roethlisberger needed to "stop trying to act like Peyton Manning."

Harrison's harshest words in the article were aimed at Goodell, whom he called a "crook" and a "devil." He also said in the article of Goodell, "I hate him and will never respect him." (AP)

Japanese Team Comes of Age, and Lifts a Country

FRANKFURT, Germany — Shortly before Japan faced the two-time defending champion Germany in the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup, Coach Norio Sasaki gave his players solemn, even grim inspiration.

He showed slide-show images of the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan's northeastern coast March 11, killing more than 15,000 people and forcing one of the country's professional women's soccer teams to abandon its season.

"They touched us deep in our souls," midfielder Aya Miyama told reporters.

Stirred, in part, by the photographs, Japan stunned Germany, 1-0, displaying not only the graceful and crafty passing that is its trademark but also newfound grit against the taller, bigger German team. Japan was given four yellow-card warnings during

the match, rare for a team that is known for technical sophistication more than muscle.

"They're playing with more fire and bite," said Tony DiCicco, who coached the United States to the 1999 World Cup title. "Four yellow cards in one match? That's usually two World Cups' worth for Japan."

On Sunday, Japan will face the United States here in the World Cup final. The Americans have won three times against the Japanese this year and are 22-0-3 over all. Until now, the rivalry has been big-sister, little-sister. No longer.

"They feel they can win," DiCicco, an analyst for ESPN, said of Japan. "That's almost never been the case before."

Just as Japan's team has drawn inspiration from the perseverance of those displaced by the earthquake and tsunami, so has the

country united behind the women's stirring soccer achievement. It is the same type of buoyancy that New Orleans experienced as the Saints reached the Super Bowl in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"What we have been doing so far is very good for Japan," Sasaki said after his team defeated Sweden, 3-1, on Wednesday. "We are still recovering from the disaster. There were so many victims in the area which was devastated. Even little things like a win can give people courage and hope."

This has made Japan the sentimental favorite to win the World Cup, said Hope Solo, the American goalkeeper. "They're playing for something bigger and better than the game," Solo said. "When you're playing with so much emotion, that's hard to play against."

JERÉ LONGMAN
and KANTARO SUZUKI