

The Delray Democrat

August 2021

We're No. 1! Florida Leads the Nation in per Capita COVID Hospitalizations

Michael K. Cantwell

Just a month ago, I expect Ron DeSantis was feeling the same way Donald Trump felt in January 2020, contemplating a second term.

In mid-June, Florida hit a low for new COVID-19 cases. DeSantis was leading Nikki Fried by 22 points and Charlie Crist by 9 points in a poll. His Orwellian attacks on Critical Race Theory, something not even taught in Florida schools, were an odious but masterful appeal to racism masquerading as a tough stance against racism.

That was then. On July 31, Florida reported its biggest one-day increase in new COVID-19 cases to the CDC, and in the month of July it reported more new cases than California and Texas combined. In the week ending July 23, Florida also [recorded](#) more coronavirus deaths in a recent week than California, Texas, New York and Illinois combined.

(Continued on page 2)

Cio-Cio San Cantwell May 24, 2005 – July 20, 2021

Our beloved little butterfly is gone. In her too-brief 16 years and 57 days, Cio-Cio brought more light and love into the world than any creature we have ever met.

She was put on this planet to love and be loved and she was unsurpassed at both. She touched many humans other than us and she will live on in them as well. She will live in our hearts forever.

Michael and Sandy Cantwell



Fear no more the heat o' the sun
Nor the furious winter rages
Thou thy earthly task have done
Home art gone and ta'en thy wages

Cymbeline

Thou'lt come no more
Never, never, never, never.

King Lear

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Upcoming DCDB Meetings (7:00 PM)

August 12: Omari Hardy, Florida State Rep. District 88

September 9: Patrick Ferguson, Esq., Sierra Club Organizing Representative, Stop Sugar Field Burning Campaign

Biden's Numbers

4,085,000 680,833	Jobs total Monthly
70%	Adults vaccinated
79.9%	Seniors vaccinated
31million	Insured under ACA
6.5%	Q2 GDP growth

(Continued from page 1)

Florida now leads the nation in per capita hospitalizations, and according to a recent [report](#) “Florida is more likely to experience severe physical and economic suffering from COVID and to face harder, longer recovery.”

All this is down to DeSantis, who:

- Rescinded the state’s Covid-19 restrictions, recklessly declaring “We are no longer in a state of emergency.”
- Mocked the wearing of masks (how do I drink a beer with a mask on)
- Promised to pardon people convicted of violating mask orders or failure to social distance.
- Signed an executive order banning school mask mandates in public schools.

DeSantis may be smarter than Trump, and he may have better table manners, but he won’t be able to lie his way out of a virus and a crashed economy any more than Trump could. #removedeathsantis 11/8/22

POGO — the Project on Government Oversight

David Kulick

Among the things I inherited from my mother were subscriptions. Many I already had, like the Southern Poverty Law Center, People For the American Way, FAIR, and the Washington Spectator. But others were things I usually read at her house, The Nation, The New York Review of Books, and Americans United. But I picked up one that I don’t recall reading called POGO – the Project on Government Oversight, and that’s what I wanted to write about.

Talking about government oversight isn’t the most sexy of subjects, but it’s the most expensive one. The overwhelming waste of tax dollars that go to the military causes us to fight over the rest. And it isn’t just Republicans that cause this problem, we have plenty of Democratic representatives and senators that are bought off. For the Littoral Combat Ships program, which are ships designed to operate close to shore, costs tripled over initial estimates, but it was kept alive by Richard Shelby (R-AL) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) because the ships were being built in their states.

It’s hard to vote against programs that benefit your

voters so defense contractors and the Pentagon use “political engineering” to spread the cash around. The first Littoral ship was commissioned in 2008 and was decommissioned, along with at least one more, because it would cost too much money to keep them in service. They cost over \$600 million each.

Other articles cover National (in)Security and the Pentagon Budget, a study of how defense companies made out like bandits during COVID but still get huge bailouts. Racism in the Ranks discusses how the military, composed of 43% minorities, has only two black officers out of 41 4* generals, and took until 2020 to have Air Force General Charles Brown Jr. become the first Black officer to head a military service. Poisoning Our Police discusses the militarization of our police forces resulting in threats to our constitutional rights and public safety.

POGO’s website is www.pogo.org, and is well worth making it a part of your reading time.

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Editorial Board: Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Sandra Elaisson, David Kulick, Char Lane, June Neal, and Rob Resnick.

Address for submissions and letters: editor@thedelraydemocrat.com; letters@thedelraydemocrat.com or to *The Delray Democrat*, c/o Democratic Club of Delray Beach, P.O. Box 8224, Delray Beach, FL 33484.

Cio-Cio San Cantwell—A Tribute

Char Lane

Cio-Cio was a sixteen-year-old apricot poodle who believed and acted like she was a puppy, though she often seemed more human than dog. She was an adorably obedient pup who was the queen of her castle and enchanted everyone. She was friendly, smart and sweet, with a mind of her own and eyes that would melt your heart.

She was a favorite of mine and will be missed by everyone who knew her, but most especially by her devoted, loving parents.



“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.” Dr. Seuss

“Grief is . . . the price you pay for love.” Rabbi Earl Grollman

Negate a Negative to Get a Plus^{*}

Char Lane

A group of us from Delray and nearby got together Sunday evening to have dinner at and show support to the owner and employees of Ramen Lab Eatery after the owner, Louis Grayson, was subjected to a harangue of hateful racist comments on July 15. Many of us had not yet been to Ramen Lab and truly enjoyed the food and the service.

It struck me that the abhorrent behavior of the men in the video brought out our indignation and desire to help in some small way. As a result, there's now another good restaurant on all of our radar, which is another example of something very good resulting from something very bad.

^{*}Originally published in The Palm Beach Post, July 30, 2021.

Bob Moses – Organizer, Educator, Polymath: “This Was a Man”

January 23, 1935 – July 25, 2021

Michael K. Cantwell

His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, “This was a man.”
Julius Caesar, V.5:78-80

Robert Parris “Bob” Moses was one of the greatest – and least well known – organizers of the Civil Rights Era, a man whose courage was legendary even in a movement studded with martyrs.

The son of a Harlem janitor, Moses was initially headed for an academic career. After graduating from the prestigious Stuyvesant High School in New York, he received an undergraduate degree from Hamilton College in philosophy and French, a Masters’ degree from Harvard University in philosophy, and was working toward his doctorate at Harvard when he returned to New York to care for his ill father.

It never bothered Moses to remain in the background, as *The New York Times* noted in his obituary, for his interests lay in organizing and developing local organizers:

Typically dressed in denim bib overalls and seemingly more comfortable around sharecroppers than senators, he insisted that he was an organizer, not a leader. He said he drew inspiration from an older generation of civil rights organizers, like Ella Baker, a leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and her “quiet work in out-of-the-way places and the commitment of organizers digging into local communities.”

“He exemplified putting community interests above ego and personal interest,” Derrick Johnson, the president of the N.A.A.C.P., said in a phone interview. “If you look at his work, he was always pushing local leadership first.”

In his obituary of Moses in *The Nation*, Professor Charles M. Payne recounts Moses’s response when asked to provide an example of “empowering grassroots leadership”:

Well, Mrs. [Hazel] Palmer... She really came to symbolize for me...this leadership phenomenon that Ella [Baker] pointed us to and she never became a media person. She always worked behind the scenes in the Freedom Democratic Party. She had been the janitor at one of the local schools and then her children got involved in the Freedom Rides in '61 and then she began to work with Medgar [Evers] and then when Medgar was assassinated in '63, she came over to the COFO [Council of Federated Organizations] office and started working with us and then she got involved in the Freedom

Democratic Party and became sort of the chief networking person out of the Jackson office on the Watts line, so she really would do a whole lot of the calling and networking with groups across the country and really became very sophisticated in her understanding of the movement and the organizing, what the movement was trying to do with poor people like her.... So, Mrs. Palmer, I used to go around and talk about her because she really came to represent what we were looking at trying to do in the community organizing because there was, I think there’s a dimension to it which is dealing with this transformation of people.

Moses in Mississippi

I first learned of Bob Moses when reading *Parting the Waters*, the opening volume of Taylor Branch’s definitive biography of Dr. Martin Luther King. Here is Branch’s description of Moses’s encounter with a group of racists who attempted to prevent Moses from registering two local men to vote:

The next morning . . . the three of them found the sidewalk near the courthouse blocked by three young white men . . . There was very little talk. Caston asked Moses where he was going. To the registrar’s office, Moses replied. Caston said no he wasn’t and struck a quick, swiping blow to Moses’ forehead with the handle of his knife.

In a mystical discovery even more vivid than the pains shooting through his head, Moses felt himself separating from his body as he staggered on the sidewalk. He floated about ten feet up in the air so that he could watch the attack on himself comfortably. His fears became as remote as Caston’s grunts, and time slowed down so that he could hear Preacher Knox running away on the sidewalk before he saw Caston slapping and shaking him. In peaceful surrender, he saw Caston hit him again behind the right temple, saw himself sink to his knees, saw Caston drive his face to the pavement with a crushing blow to the top of the head . . .

His first thoughts, upon hearing the feet of his attackers depart, were that he could function in spite of his wounds and that it was urgently important to reach the courthouse ...

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The county registrar reserved a practiced, well-what-have-we-got-here look for Negro customers, but it vanished in a gasp at the sight of Moses, whose bloody head and shirt combined with his serene, quiet voice to give him a presence as eerie as Banquo's ghost. The registrar gamely sought refuge in bursts of businesslike indifference, excessive politeness, and put-upon impatience, before all his bureaucratic poses collapsed under the weight of his nerves. He said he was closing the office and asked the three Negroes to leave.

The next day Moses drove back to the courthouse and swore out a complaint against Caston for criminal assault. The district attorney agreed to do so, although he warned Moses that “no one could guarantee Moses's life – or his own legal career – against the wrath of the local white people.” After Moses and the two men testified the next day, over one hundred white men gathered outside the courthouse, several shots were fired, and Moses and his witnesses got a police escort to the county line. The next day they read that Caston had been acquitted.

Post-Mississippi Crusades

Bob Moses never stopped organizing or emphasizing the importance of grassroots leadership. In part his reason for leaving Mississippi was his feeling that his role had become “too strong, too central, so that people who did not need to, began to lean on me, to use me as a crutch.”

He became active in the antiwar movement and spoke out against the Vietnam Conflict in 1965 (two years before MLK's famous Riverside Speech). Not long afterward, and despite being 31 years old at a time the [cutoff](#) for the draft was 26, he was drafted. He and his wife moved to Tanzania, where he taught math and lived in exile from 1969 to 1976. After the Carter amnesty he returned to the United States and completed his doctorate at Harvard and began teaching math in public school in Cambridge after learning from his daughter that the school was not offering algebra.

This led to his next civil rights crusade, “against the inequalities baked into the public education system.”

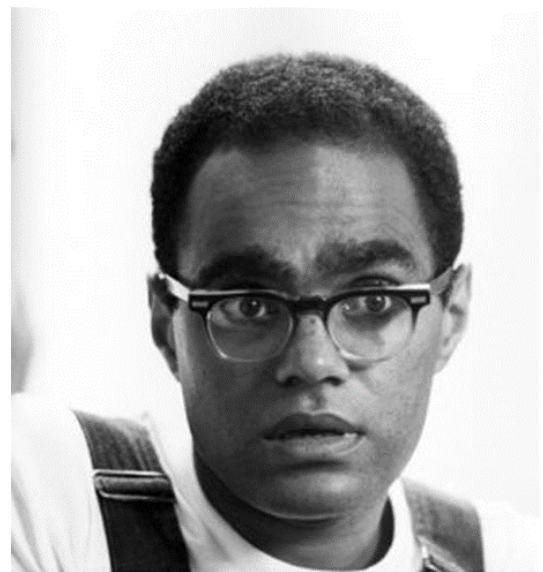
In 1982, he launched “[The Algebra Project](#),” using funding from a MacArthur “Genius” Grant:

“Education is still basically Jim Crow as far as the kids who are in the bottom economic strata of the country,” Moses told [NPR](#) in 2013. “No one knows about them, no one cares about them.”

After its launch, The Algebra Project expanded nationwide into hundreds of schools. It has helped to provide these forgotten kids with the tools to avoid a lifetime of “low-wage, low-skill work on the second tier of an Information Age economy,” as NPR reported in a [podcast](#) in 2013.

When he died, this gentle giant was still listening to those left behind and ignored, still working to better their lives. As Charles Payne writes in the final paragraph of his obituary in *The Nation*, Moses and his wife, Janet had recently “been building a national project to create local organizations committed to addressing manifestations of the racial caste system in their schools.” More information on “Data For Better Schools” is available at <https://www.typp.org/dbs>

Payne ends the obituary with the message left by the Wobblies' legendary organizer and songwriter Joe Hill: “*don't mourn, organize.*” As we face the potential loss of the Senate and House and the prospective reelection of Ron DeSantis next year, we would do well to listen . . . and act.



Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors

Michael Cantwell, President; Char Lane, Vice-President; Sandra Elaisen-Cantwell, Secretary; David Kulick, Treasurer; Robert Resnick, Parliamentarian, Robert Averack, Mary Fader, Charlie Holbrook, June Neal, Patricia O'Hearne, and Cheryl Perry, Directors; John Ramos, Director Emeritus.

American Exceptionalism Is Exceptionally Ignorant and Dangerous

Rabbi Barry Silver

I have always been inspired by the Sioux victory in Custer's Last Stand, where the good guys for one brief moment defeated those who waged genocide against them. With a Bible in one hand and a gun in the other, Americans justified their rape, pillage and murder of Native Americans across the continent as their "manifest destiny", which they claimed was God's plan to replace indigenous people in America with white Christians, just as their fictional Biblical God commanded his chosen Jewish people to eradicate the native Canaanites.

Reflecting on America's original sins of genocide and slavery, Thomas Jefferson remarked "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever." The deist Jefferson presciently foresaw "nature's God" exacting retribution for America's original sins of genocide, slavery and destruction of the planet, with the natural consequences of Civil War, racial unrest, and environmental collapse. Today America's natural beauty and precious western forests are literally going up in smoke due to our insatiable desire to "conquer nature" rather than live in harmony with it.

Our misguided Governor "death Santis" seeks to inflict revisionist history upon our children by teaching them "American exceptionalism" where the white history of slavery, genocide and misogyny is literally whitewashed. The only thing exceptional about them is the "exceptional" arrogance and ignorance of their fascist "America First" agenda, an obnoxious slogan shared by Trump and pro-Nazis of the 1930s who wanted to keep America out of WWII.

DeSantis wants to further abuse children by forcing them to pledge allegiance to the "Judeo-Christian" God who provides theological justification for slavery and genocide in America and Canaan. The first step towards freedom is the liberation of the mind from slavish obedience to a celestial dictator who demands constant praise, obsequious devotion, and murder in his name.

As Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember their past are condemned to repeat it." Thus, today we see genocide in Brazil, where farmers are setting fire to the Amazon, our best defense against climate change, and converting the lungs of the Earth into grazing land for cattle which are slaughtered and sold to American corporations like McDonald's and

Burger King, to increase their profit margin by a few pennies with cancer causing, unhealthy beef.

After Custer's defeat at the Little Big Horn, America went on a rampage to wipe out the Sioux militarily and by announcing the discovery of gold in their sacred black hills of South Dakota, which unleashed an onslaught of greed, pillage and murder. Today, history repeats itself as gold mining intruders ravage the Amazon and its indigenous inhabitants. Fighting with the courage of the Sioux and the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto, the natives face seemingly insurmountable odds in their desperate struggle for survival against an implacable enemy that seeks their destruction. The disappearance of the Amazon rainforests spells disaster not only for its inhabitants but for all humanity.

Naturally, Trump and his cultish followers are allied with the murderers who are burning the rainforest in an Amazonian holocaust led by Trump's friend, Jair Bolsonaro, the President of Brazil who shares Trump's view of our precious planet as another commodity to exploit for financial and political gain. Trump's most ardent supporters are fundamentalist Christians and Orthodox Jews who are so focused on their imaginary next world ("olam habah") where God's chosen live happily ever, that they have no time or interest to worry about this one. History has repeatedly shown the harm that ensues when "God's elect" seeks to carry out God's plan against "the other". Trump believes none of this, but happily exploits the reservoir of gullibility and abject servility to authority among the believers towards their self-proclaimed "chosen one", who inspired them to storm the Capitol in a failed insurrection and who continues to threaten democracy, our health and our planet by spreading the virus of ignorance about the election results, climate change and the vaccine.

Inspired by the slogan of Israel, "If you will it, it is no dream" Jews know that miracles do happen, especially for those who cause a little "good trouble". As we approach the Day of Atonement, may the Jewish people atone for the misuse of our Bible, and unite to take up our historic role as the light to the nations, defenders of the oppressed, and protectors of our precious Earth.

Rabbi Barry Silver welcomes your comments and inquiries about Cosmic Judaism at barryboca@aol.com

GOP Sabotages Jan 6 Investigation - Again

Rob Resnick

While Speaker Nancy Pelosi deals with the media fallout from her unprecedented rejection of Jim Jordan and Jim Banks, two of Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy's five picks for the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Insurrection, voters must focus on McCarthy and the Republicans. Republicans have again sabotaged any effort to investigate and determine the truth about the attack on the Capitol. Voters, including Republican voters, must demand that Republican elected officials do their sworn duty to uphold the Constitution and the Rule of Law, and cease all efforts to prevent investigation about January 6, 2021.

His faux outrage to the contrary, McCarthy well knew that Jordan was especially incapable of serving on this committee, but selecting him was a win/win for McCarthy. If Pelosi left him on the committee, Jordan would sabotage any efforts at progress. If Pelosi rejected him, McCarthy would follow the Trump playbook with a hyperbolic, dishonest attack on Pelosi and the committee, challenging and threatening its legitimacy. McCarthy's goal was to prevent a select committee from being formed and with no Republican appointed members (he chose to withdraw all five rather than replace the two) he may have essentially achieved that goal or at least limited its effectiveness. Time will tell.

Republican Representative Liz Cheney rightfully referred to McCarthy's selections as a partisan attempt to thwart the investigation, and his attack on Speaker Pelosi and her decision as disingenuous. McCarthy selected Representative Jim Jordan, and likely also Representative Jim Banks, for the sole purpose of obstructing the committee's work and preventing any conclusion, no matter how strongly supported, that implicates former President Trump or other Republican leaders and constituencies. Jordan, the king of bombast and dishonesty in Congress, serves no other purpose on the committee. Cheney shoulders a lot of responsibility because she and Adam Kinzinger (later appointed by Pelosi) are the only Republicans serving on the committee, especially to maintain the air of legitimacy Republicans are working so hard to prevent.

Regardless of the consequences, Pelosi was right to reject Jordan and Banks. Her decision was not based on any of their partisan views or actions, as

demonstrated by her accepting the other three McCarthy picks. She did not reject individuals who simply voted against the Electoral College vote, even after the insurrection. She drew the line with Jordan and Banks because of their ongoing, fervent efforts to support Trump's "Big Lie" about the election being stolen and their close coordination with Trump before and after January 6 to overturn the election. In fact, Jordan is highly likely to be called as a witness in front of the committee. Just how does one sit on a select committee where one is going to be a material (likely hostile) witness concerning the very wrongdoing at issue?! If you were prosecuting a group of co-defendants for a crime, would you let them serve on each other's juries? Of course not.

Republicans were able to prevent a Congressional Commission that would have undertaken a comprehensive review of the January 6 attack on the Capitol. Republicans essentially got everything they asked for on the Commission – representation, staff, subpoena power, etc. They would not take yes for an answer, voted against it, and proved to the American people their determination to prevent the public from learning what occurred on January 6. Following the adage, "the best defense is a good offense," Republicans have been aggressively attacking law enforcement and anyone attempting to unveil the truth about January 6 as well as prosecuting their bogus claims of a stolen election in part to dissuade people from caring about the facts behind the insurrection. Well, they certainly have been acting offensively... Supporting the violent attack and the clearly fraudulent claims about the election are an affront to democracy, the Constitution, and the American people.

McCarthy's ruthless, baseless attack on Pelosi was designed entirely as a political stunt, introducing the 2022 Republican smear campaign about socialism/authoritarianism in Congress. The base will love it and respond to it as a rallying cry, thus getting out the vote. They also hope to use this to win independents, particularly in swing House districts and close Senate races, to take control of both chambers. No matter how important people believe it is to determine the truth about the insurrection, this is not likely to be a successful campaign issue. Republicans are betting they can prevent the investigations without political fallout.

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Democrats will take a big risk if they focus on these issues rather than the traditional “kitchen table” issues that voters prove time and again win or lose elections. That is why it is critical for this select committee to get to work, produce a fair, accurate, and thorough report, and conclude the investigation as swiftly as possible.

There has been plenty of video footage and court documentation memorializing and proving incontrovertibly that the Capitol was violently

attacked by an angry mob, the attack was planned by extremist groups that also exploited the mob, approximately 150 law enforcement officers were injured by the rioters, and that they were there believing they were supporting Donald Trump. So, what do Republicans still believe they need to hide – the role of Trump and other elected officials that may have encouraged or supported the insurrection. They will go to great lengths and know no bounds to conceal their treachery, quest for authoritarian control, and efforts to overturn what was a proper election. This is the behavior of criminals with guilty consciences.

What We’re Reading

Charles Blow, [“The Lost Cause’ Is Back”](#): When the South lost the Civil War, revisionists there invented the propaganda narrative of the “Lost Cause,” positing that the fight had been honorable and righteous and not about maintaining slavery but maintaining a superior way of life. In this narrative, slavery had been good and the enslaved treated relatively well, with many of the enslaved happy workers. As Ty Seidule, a professor emeritus of history at West Point and the Chamberlain fellow and a professor of history at Hamilton College, wrote in “Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner’s Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause,”

The Lost Cause created a flawed memory of the Civil War, a lie that formed the ideological foundation for white supremacy and Jim Crow laws, which used violent terror and de jure segregation to enforce racial control.

Maureen Dowd: [Why Do Republicans Hate Cops?](#): “The heart-rending police testimony was dismissed by most Republicans and Fox News as ‘political theater.’ What gall by a party that claims to have the backs of men and women in blue.”

Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2021 Membership Application and Renewal

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name/names of household members _____
Please print clearly.

Address _____

Community/Condo Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone number _____

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here _____ and we will not share your E-mail address.).

Preferred method of contact: E-mail _____ Mail _____ Phone _____ Text _____

Send newsletter by: E-mail _____ Hand delivery _____ U.S. Mail _____

I/we are in South Florida from _____ to _____ each year or are a permanent resident _____.

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