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IN YOUR WORDS

📌 **Germany’s renewable energy feat**
If Germany succeeds in obtaining most of its energy from renewable sources, it would be an achievement that should have worldwide implications. In fact, we all should be posted on this outcome. Germany has made it clear that it is possible to have a vibrant manufacturing industry in Western economies, and now it may also show that renewable energy is a reachable goal. Germany, we love you for this. Keep it up.
J. PARULA, FLORIDA

Nothing ever goes according to the plan but we are determined to fix all problems. And that’s what I love about my country, it is a pain, it causes frustration and malice, but nobody questions the vision. You must look at it from the bright side. We get so much energy out of the wind farms that they grill conventional transformer stations.
MATHIAS WEITZ, FRANKFURT

📌 **Bracing for change in Scotland**
We have lived in harmony ever since 1603, and the Scots are as proud a nation as the English, but to divorce over a misguided “Braveheart” sentiment is nonsensical. We are far better united. No one in this thread has yet mentioned currency, border controls, immigration, being in (or out) of the E.U., jobs, And if you get divorced you don’t keep the joint bank account, etc., etc. I live just 30 miles from the Anglo-Scottish border so try imagining Texas deciding to secede from the U.S. Very messy. It has nothing to do with the British Empire, it has every thing to do with a raw nationalism, a feeling of alienation from London.
COLIN, HEXHAM, ENGLAND

You can argue it’s good or bad for Scotland, but no American should deride Scotland’s desire for independence. Especially not an American. Good luck to Scotland.
JOHN, ST. LOUIS

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IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

1964 Success for Polanski
LONDON Roman Polanski, a pocket-sized, playful Puck of a youthful Pole, is bringing off the very neat feat of becoming a successful movie director in his native Communist homeland, Poland, as well as in the highly competitive circles of the capitalist movie world of the West. His first feature film, “Knife in the Water,” shot in Warsaw, won him a prize at the Venice Film Festival two years ago and put him on the cover of an issue of “Time” magazine devoted to international moviemaking. Polanski has been living fairly regularly in France. He has definitely not come West for good, however, and feels he would like to make more films in his own country, provided he had the freedom to do what he wanted in his craft. “Producers are the same everywhere, basically,” he said with a rapid nervous blink of the eyes during an interview. “East or West — it’s them against you, the director. In socialist countries you run into problems more of an ideological nature from the producers; here more of a commercial order. But it all comes down to them standing in the way of what you want to say.” He shrugged before continuing: “Qu’est-ce que tu veux? It’s up to you to do the best you can no matter what the system.”

🔗 Find a retrospective of news from 1887 to 2013 at [iht-retrospective.blogs.nytimes.com](#)

Cosimo Matassa, pioneer of a rock ’n’ roll sound, dies at 88

BY DOUGLAS MARTIN

Cosimo Matassa, whose used-record business in New Orleans led him to sell new records, which led him to open a tiny studio that helped jump-start rock ’n’ roll by recording early hits by the likes of

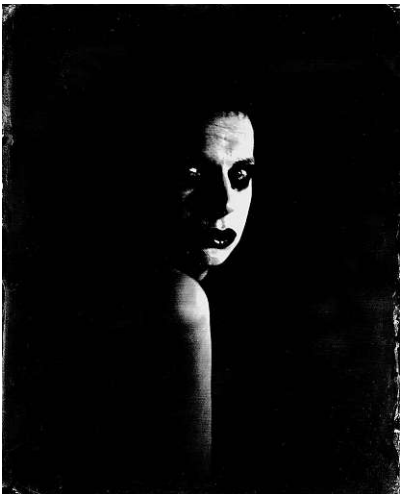
OBITUARY

Fats Domino and Little Richard, died on Thursday in New Orleans. He was 88. His granddaughter Mia Matassa confirmed the death. Mr. Matassa was given a lifetime achievement award at the 2007 Grammys and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012 for the vaunted output of his J&M Recording Studio. (The initials were those of both his father, John, and his father’s business partner, Joe Mancuso.) The hall designated the original studio, the first of four ever-bigger iterations, a “rock and roll landmark” in 2010. (It was later named Cosimo’s Recording Studio.) Recording engineers like Mr. Matassa seldom receive recognition. Part of his accomplishment, musicians said, was an ability to get the most out of primitive

A city turned art gallery



TADAO CERN



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SÉBASTIEN KOHLER



DAVID FAYROD

EPIC VISIONS
Every two years, the Swiss town of Vevey turns itself into an open-air gallery of photography for its Visual Arts Festival — this year through Oct. 5. Artists display their works in monumental form, on walls, buildings and rooftops. Tadao Cern of Lithuania printed his “Comfort Zone” series, top, on 20-square-

meter canvases on rooftops. The images can only be seen as projected via private drones flying overhead. Above, the Swiss photographer Sébastien Kohler used an antiquated glass-plate process to produce his “Dita Pumpkins” series. Left, “Mishiko,” from David Favrod’s “Hikari” series, exploring his Japanese heritage.



MATT SULLIVAN/REUTERS

Cosimo Matassa was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012.

In 1946, he bought equipment that let him record directly onto a disc. That meant he could not stop and splice in changes, as later recording techniques would make possible. Each two-to-three-minute record, therefore, amounted to an exact replica of the recording session — or it wasn’t released. Mr. Matassa urged musicians to pretend they were performing for live audiences. “Those guys played with a lot of excitement,” he said in a 2012 interview in conjunction with his Hall of Fame induc-

tion, “and I felt if I couldn’t put it in a groove, people weren’t going to move.” In his book “Rhythm & Blues in New Orleans” (1988), John Broven quoted Mr. Matassa as saying that this approach often worked wonderfully. The reason, Mr. Matassa said, was that “they were really performances as opposed to the synthesized record you make today.” In the 1960s, Mr. Matassa started his own record company, Dover Records, but it did not last long. He estimated that he lost \$200,000 in his years in the music business. Until his health began to fail, Mr. Matassa liked to hang out in the grocery store in the French Quarter that his family has owned for three generations and chat with people. He played down his own significance. “People expect me to have some sense of history, as though I’d hear a record and know this was going to be something we’d be talking about 30 years later,” he said in a 2007 interview with WWL-TV in New Orleans. “We were all busy making a living,” he continued. “We had a hell of a good time and it was a great way to make a living, but no, there was no sense of history. Certainly not with me.”

Congress should have say on ISIS



Albert R. Hunt

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia says the question of whether Congress needs to authorize President Obama’s declared war on the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria was settled by Thomas Jefferson when that president went after the Barbary pirates more than 200 years ago. Jefferson, a founding father, dispatched ships as a protection force because Muslim pirates on the Barbary Coast of North Africa were seizing American merchant ships. He then declared that he was “unauthorized by the Constitution, without the sanction of Congress, to go beyond the line of defense.”

Mr. Kaine, a Democrat and ally of Mr. Obama, dismisses the president’s claim that the post-Sept. 11, 2001, authorization of force against Al Qaeda also gives him the power to go after the extremist Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, which didn’t exist then.

“The president is saying, ‘Now let’s go on the offense,’ and he needs congressional authority to do that,” Mr. Kaine said.

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As Mr. Kaine and Republicans such as Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee note, there also are compelling policy and political reasons to get congressional approval. Dismantling and destroying the well-funded jihadist group that controls large swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria won’t be easy or quick. As dysfunctional as Congress is, such dangerous ventures suffer when taken unilaterally. Politicians on both sides would like to authorize money for training and personnel, then get out of town for the midterm elections.

Democrats want to avoid anything that puts the unpopular president front and center for weeks. Some veteran Senate Democrats remember being burned by the 2002 Iraq Resolution, which was based on flawed intelligence.

Conversely, many Republicans, eager for opportunities to criticize Mr. Obama, want to avoid a resolution that supports his policy. And they don’t want to expose the fissures between the Rand Paul and John McCain wings of their party on foreign policy.

Yet Republican national security experts such as Stephen J. Hadley, a top adviser to President George W. Bush who has been critical of this administration’s policies, credit Mr. Obama for his decision to assemble a coalition of foreign allies and present a forceful case to the nation in a televised address last week.

“The speech was very good, and the president is showing real determination,” said Mr. Hadley, one of the foreign policy experts who dined with Mr. Obama several days before the speech. “But this is going to take a long time, and there are critical questions.”

A serious-minded Senate — cynics would call that an oxymoron — should explore these questions, even if that means lawmakers having to stay in Washington beyond the planned adjournment in the next two weeks.

Mr. Hadley said the president was wise not to set a deadline or timetable, but the public should be told that this operation won’t be over in weeks or months. They should also be given an estimate of the costs.

Although there is a consensus that there won’t be as much sectarian strife under the recently assembled Iraqi government, a number of questions remain: how to make the country’s United States-trained military less likely to falter; are other countries in the region willing to provide crucial support in this fight; how to eliminate ISIS’s extensive oil, banking and extortion funding. And will the president stick to his vow of no United States combat troops on the ground? What if special operations and intelligence forces prove insufficient?

There’s the political billiards game with multiple side pockets. Two of the Sunni terrorists’ biggest enemies are Syria and Iran, both American adversaries. How will these relations be affected? Perhaps the most compelling argument for congressional involvement is that lives will be lost, including those of Americans.

Mr. Kaine asked, “What moral right do we have to ask them to sacrifice their very lives if we’re not willing to do what is required of us?” (BLOOMBERG VIEW)

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