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5 pieces worth reading

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Opinion: Why Kevin McCarthy's dream is in big trouble

This column from *CNN* analyzes the disarray within the Republican Party that has manifest in its House members inability to elect a new House speaker on the first ballot, the first time in a century that such has occurred. Jill Filipovic argues that GOP House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the leading candidate for the post, has only himself to blame for this situation, as his past behavior has encouraged the extremists in his caucus to follow the obstructionist path they have undertaken.

Filipovic, J. (2023, January 4). "Opinion: Why Kevin McCarthy's dream is in big trouble." *CNN*. Retrieved January 4, 2023, from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/03/opinions/gop-battle-house-speaker-kevin-mccarthy-filipovic>

The real reason the chaos in the House should scare US

In this article, *Vox* senior politics correspondent Andrew Prokop argues that the real chaos in the House of Representatives will occur after the GOP chooses a speaker and then must address the question of raising the nation's debt ceiling and, more generally, ensuring the effective governance of the nation. Prokop contends that the speaker will have their hands full seeking to persuade the party's most extreme members to vote for essential bills.

Prokop, A. (2023, January 4). "The real reason the chaos in the House should scare US." *Vox*. Retrieved January 4, 2023, from <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2023/1/4/23537063/kevin-mccarthy-house-speaker-debt-ceiling>

Will democracy still be on a roll in 2023?

CNN's Stephen Collinson argues in this commentary that several democracies, including the United States, France, and Brazil, have shown their resilience in the face of illiberal headwinds in recent national elections. While Collinson contends that several key factors will shape the course of U.S. politics and whether that positive trend can continue in 2023, including the behavior of the new Republican majority in the House of Representatives, the possible indictment of former President Donald Trump on one or more charges, Trump's already

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

launched campaign to secure the GOP presidential nomination for 2024, Russia's continued war against Ukraine, and a potential recession.

Collinson, S. (2023, January 3). "Will democracy still be on a roll in 2023?" *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/03/americas/will-democracy-still-be-on-a-roll-in-2023-intl/index.html>

Biden set an ambitious goal for nature. It's time he went after it

This article, by *New York Times* reporter Robert Semple, analyzes the central features of the recent U.N biodiversity conference agreement to protect the diversity of species that inhabit nearly one-third of the planet's land and oceans by 2030, and President Biden's support of that pledge. He contends that Biden must aggressively pursue this pact's ambitious goals, in lieu of seeking alone to undo the damage of Trump administration inaction towards climate change. This will be difficult because, while the President has endorsed the agreement, embraced by nearly 200 other countries, GOP opposition has prevented the United States from ratifying it to date.

Semple, R. (2022, December 31). "Biden set an ambitious goal for nature. it's time he went after it." *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/31/opinion/biodiversity-summit.html>

Opinion: Ukraine is already paying us back

Daniel Twining argues in this *POLITICO* piece that America's long-term investment in building democracy and aiding Ukraine in its defense against Russia's aggression is paying off, and now is not the time to pull back in providing that support. Twining contends that the United States must not now squander the very real progress its long-term assistance has yielded in Ukraine and must remain firm in its efforts to address Russian imperialism and to continue to help the nation build enduring democratic norms and institutions.

Twining, D. (2023, January 4). "Opinion: Ukraine is already paying us back." *POLITICO*. Retrieved from <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2023/01/04/ukraine-democracy-investment-00076180>