5 pieces worth reading

July 28, 2022
By: Billy Parvatam
Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance
https://ipg.vt.edu/

Inside Trump ’25: A radical plan for Trump’s second term

Jonathan Swan profiles how former President Donald Trump’s allies are preparing to restructure the federal government civil service radically should he be re-elected to a second term in 2024. The plan, predicated on the issue of an executive order called “Schedule F,” would seek to fire thousands of civil servants and fill their positions with Trump partisans and loyalists. The plan was born of Trump’s frustration that he could not bend “bureaucrats” to his will, when and as he wished, during his term of office.


We can’t afford not to prosecute Trump

New York Times columnist Charles Blow outlines why the Department of Justice needs to prosecute former President Donald Trump for the crimes he is accused of committing. He argues that Trump has learned from his failures and is more dangerous than ever, that the political system lacks the ability to hold him accountable, and that many of his supporters have contempt for women, among other groups, and therefore are more than willing to abridge their civil rights, as reasons to prosecute the former chief executive.


Joe Manchin is a symptom, but it’s the Senate that’s sick.

Jamelle Bouie argues that Senator Joe Manchin’s (D-WV) refusal to support policies that address climate change demonstrates that the Senate is an institution where popular legislation goes to die. The Senate’s electoral make up, and peculiar rules, which favor rural states and residents, has allowed the interests and views of a minority of Americans to take precedence over majority preferences and needs. Bouie contends this structure must be reformed.

Opinion: Till accuser’s memoir shows pandora’s box opened by his brutal death is still wide open

Professor Peniel Joseph discusses the continuing significance of Emmett Till’s murder as the country approaches the 67th anniversary of his tragic lynching in August. He argues that the unpublished memoir of Carolyn Bryant Donham, the ex-wife of one of Till’s murderers, brings new information to light concerning the murder and thereby contributes to a deepened understanding of that awful event. He hopes too that this turn will contribute to a modicum of national healing.


Executive Excess 2022

The 28th edition of the Executive Excess report highlights the strategies CEOs have employed to secure massive bonuses while simultaneously refusing to increase wages for the workers at the firms they lead. These tactics have included spending record sums on stock buybacks and using the COVID-19 crisis as a rationale to increase prices and, thereby profits, leading corporate governing boards to reward them with increased benefits and compensation.