



## LONG HOT SUMMER - OF LOVE?

The **Summer of Love** we are ironically celebrating here in the Deep North gave way fifty years ago in July and August to **1967's Long Hot Summer** in many Northern cities and a few Southern ones in response to the upheaval of the Civil Rights Movement. **159** riots. Count them. Detroit was the worst – 43 killed, 342 injured, 1400 buildings burned. Newark's riots claimed 23 lives. Martin Luther King called these riots of black people, in the middle of his nonviolent Civil Rights Movement, the “speech of the inarticulate.”

In **Milwaukee**, the most segregated city in the U.S. and always a leader, the city was shut down for 10 days by an Official Milwaukee that refused to negotiate on fair non-discriminated housing. A white cleric, Father Groppi, led 200 days of protest, faced at varying times by white segregationist in large numbers – **3,000** onetime and later **13,000** white people expressing their rage at the thought of an integration of white neighborhoods. **40** died. Official Milwaukee held firmly behind white racism and often led the pack of Most Segregated Cities.

Meanwhile, the **30<sup>th</sup> of August** saw the assassination of George Lincoln Rockwell, the charismatic leader of the National Socialist Workers Party – the fabulous Nazis, so much in vogue again. It was the same day that Thurgood Marshall became the first black Justice of the Supreme Court. America, schizophrenic on race as usual. Or maybe the word is hypocritical. . .

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Fall coming- In a Hand Basket?



## Harvey Aid Offered by Mexico & Venezuela

As soon as **Hurricane Harvey** hit, Mexico- a country described by Donald Trump as a source of rapists and drugs – stepped up to offer boats, food and other aid to the United States. Despite silence from President Trump, Gov. Greg Abbott is accepting Mexico's offer. Another offer of help came from Venezuela, a country in severe political and economic crisis that has been repeatedly sanctioned by the Trump administration. It said it could give \$5 million in aid.

The European Union has proudly noted that it is sharing its satellite mapping with U.S. emergency responders dealing the Harvey's devastation. This despite Trump's chastisement of European countries he views as overly dependent on the U.S. military.

Then there's tiny Taiwan, which has reportedly offered \$800,000 in aid – a number likely calculated to annoy China as much as to curry favor with Trump.

But compared with past crises, the list of foreign governments lining up to help the United States this time is relatively short for now.

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## Targeting Coal: HERE AND NO FURTHER

In the Rhineland farmland of western Germany the last weekend of August over 6,000 climate justice activists converged for a series of action days to protest coal mining in the region. This included **Here and No Further** (Ende Gelände), a mass civil disobedience campaign in which 3,000 participants illegally obstructed the coal mining infrastructure on Friday and Saturday. Carrying bags of straw to protect against police batons, and accompanied by a brass marching band along with the occasional clown, activists fanned out in teams across the fields surrounding the targeted a **lignite coal mine** and the power plant it serviced. One group entered the mine itself, while others lay on the railroad tracks to

stage a blockade, preventing coal trains from delivering coal to the power plant. The **lignite mine** is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in Europe.

On Friday alone, activists blocked the train tracks for nine hours, including trains delivering coal from the **ignite coal mine**, causing the power plant to reduce its operations by 37 percent. Other independent actions included a group of bicyclists who disrupted traffic by riding in a “critical mass” formation and a group of rock climbers called “Robin Wood,” who swung down from bridges passing over the railroad tracks.

Participants were organized into 10 action groups, called “fingers,” each of which had planned their strategy ahead of time and deliberated in democratic assemblies to decide on a course of action. Within each finger, activists divided themselves into smaller affinity groups to discuss how far they were willing to go in the case of police confrontation and to keep track of each

other during the actions. One group, the Pink Finger, left by bus on Friday morning, then walked through the farmland towards the railroad tracks – at which point they were confronted by police. “They immediately started pepper spraying us,” said a Pink Finger who remained anonymous. “People were running, falling, the police were hitting us.”

The group was eventually “kettled,” or encircled by a chain of police but soon broke free again, running across the fields to join another group that was blockading the tracks. Roughly half the members of the Pink Finger group made it onto the tracks in the end, where they played card games and discussed their next steps. It took two-and-a-half hours before police were able to remove them, harshly hoisting and tossing them down the dirt slope lining the tracks as protesters sang defiantly.

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## Rethinking the Big, Bad Wolf

Science shows that killing wolves does more harm than good. When settlers came from Europe to North America, they brought their livestock with them. This new presence of Europeans and livestock led to the widespread and systematic persecution of predators in North America. By the early 16th century, chicken, cattle, horses, goats, sheep and pigs began populating farms in the American West, and colonists protected their livestock with guns. This, combined with hunters' thirst for wolf pelts, led to a massive decline in wolf populations. In some areas wolves were completely wiped off the map.

Today ranchers in Europe and the United States are still dealing with wolves and other predators in much the same way as they did in the 16th century: They shoot them – or lobby government wildlife managers to shoot them – when the packs prey on livestock.

While killing wolves that attack livestock may give ranchers short-term peace of mind, it's more likely to plague them with long-term aggravation, according to the latest science. Researchers have found that killing wolves upsets pack dynamics- especially when young wolves are involved, which leads ultimately to yet more livestock deaths. In one study scientists found that for each additional wolf killed, the expected average number of preyed-on livestock increased by 5 percent to 6 percent per herd for cattle and 4 percent for sheep. Fewer wolves also means more of the prey they used to hunt, which can create a whole new set of

problems.

In particular, hooved wildlife such as elk and deer can overpopulate in a given environment. When there are too many of these hooved animals, plant life becomes overgrazed and entire ecosystems begin to fray.

Further compounding wolf-management quandaries are European and U.S. policies that allow for livestock grazing, with permits, on public lands – the same public lands where wolves live. Wildlife managers encourage ranchers not to kill wolves immediately, but instead try using livestock guardian dogs, fences and alarms, lights and nonlethal ammunition. The key to effective nonlethal predator control involves a variety of tactics to keep wolves on their toes; it also requires **“thinking like a wolf.”**

Limiting wolf populations to a specific area is virtually impossible. This complicates the politics of wolf management, which in the United States is largely delineated from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to states and

community advisory groups. Wolf advisory groups established by state agencies do not have as a goal enforcing the law or following the best available science. Their goal is to reach social compromise.

That legal structure pits the people who want to get rid of wolves against the people who want to save them, and sometimes ignores the best available science that should be used to guide wolf management.

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