

FRIDAY: SINNERMAN

In this roundup: A look outside the U.S.' borders – TTIP's end, Turkey at risk, Chile and women's reproductive rights, more.

Featured jazz artist today is Eunice Waymon, known best by her stage name Nina Simone. Recognized for her powerful political work, *Mississippi Goddam*, Simone was an incredibly gifted pianist trained at Juilliard with a predilection for the works and method of Johann Sebastian Bach. She became a singer only after nightclubs for which she performed insisted she must sing and play piano together.

Two of my favorites apart from Sinnerman shared here are *Feeling Good* and *I Put a Spell on You*. I'll always have a warm, fuzzy place for *Ain't Got No/I Got Life* medley, a variation of the song from the 1960s Broadway musical *Hair*. I can remember singing along to this recording during long road trips.

Why Nina Simone today? Because of Sinnerman, which seems particularly appropriate during this election season.

Looking away from our nation's navel

- Op-ed: Is Turkey nearing civil war? (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*) – Guest contributor Yavuz Baydar reviews developments in Turkey after the so-called coup attempt, including calls to arm citizens, reestablish an Ottoman caliphate, and create militarized youth groups attached to mosques. Turkish media, operating with the blessing of President Tayyip Erdoğan,

has shown maps featuring Mosul and parts of northern Greece as part of a Turkish empire.

- TTIP may be in death throes, but resuscitation attempted (euronews) – This article quotes a Spanish automotive partmaker who complains the need to inspect parts both on export and import is expensive, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement would eliminate the costly redundancy. Except the existing duplicative inspections didn't prevent Volkswagen Group and its vendor Bosch from shipping fraudulent vehicles and parts, did it? Yeah. Not so much...in spite of TTIP's near-death, the US and EU met earlier this month to regroup and try to force TTIP through before the end of President Obama's term.
- Chile's president aims to change restrictive anti-abortion laws (NPR) – Chile is among the five most restrictive countries in the world, outlawing abortion even to save the life of the mother. President Michelle

Bachelet made it her goal to change the laws; the country's lower house has already approved legislation to allow abortion in case of rape, to save the mother, or in case of mortal fetal defect. Chile's senate must yet vote to approve this legislation before it becomes law. In the meantime, women must travel abroad to obtain abortions or risk jail if they attempt it in Chile on their own.

- Radical Ukrainian nationalists rising (euronews) – Members of far-right groups Azo regiment and the Right Sector recently marched through Kyiv to celebrate Ukrainian patriotism while protesting pro-Russian separatists.

Tech Debris

Here's a collection of odd technology bits I've run across recently worth a read:

- Dutch researchers working on anti-hacking technology (euronews) – They're working on unique identifiers for devices attached to the internet, like the myriad Internet of Things (webcams, baby monitors, so on). This seems like a waste of time

given every device should already have an ID assigned by a network. Keep an eye on this; it'd certainly make surveillance easier. Ahem.

- Troubling case of Facebook v. Vachani (NPR) – Fluffy overview of the suit filed against Steven Vachani whose portal site product pissed off Facebook greatly. But you should read the op-ed from July by Orin Kerr about this case – brace yourself for your freak out.
- From the archives: Interview with John Arquilla on cyberwarfare (FRONTLINE) – Perspective on the origins of current cyberwarfare policies arising from Bush administration post-9/11. As you read this, keep in mind Arquilla is a proponent of preemptive warfare and the use of cyberwarfare against terrorism.
- Twitter as a government tool against the people (Bloomberg) – We take for granted we can type anything we want in social media. Not so in much of the rest of the world, and Twitter is an example of social media with both great potential to inform while putting users

at risk where speech is not free. Although after the recent revelations Twitter sold data to a U.S. intelligence front, speech isn't exactly free on Twitter for U.S. citizens, either.

Longread: Did newspapers screw up?

We've watched the decline of newspapers for over a decade as its analog business model met the reality of a digital age. Jack Shafer wrote about the possibility newspapers may have made a critical error during the generational shift to online media – perhaps the seasoned existing outlets should have remained firmly committed to print. Two key problems with this analysis: 1) printing and distribution remains as expensive as all other factors in producing a newspaper, and 2) the population consuming newspaper content is changing, from a print-only to digital-only audience. This must be acknowledged or newspapers will continue to struggle, and large papers will continue to pursue consolidation in order to reduce costs to operate.

With that in mind, I still don't understand why The Washington Post, owned by Jeff Bezos, hasn't opted to offer a Kindle to subscribers willing to pay for a full print subscription a year in advance. A low-level Kindle is cheaper than the cost to print. Ditto to The New York Times; why hasn't it considered a tie up with Kobo or another e-reader manufacturer?

That's it for this week; have a good weekend!