



**WEEKLY UPDATE
JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2020**



**NEW YORK: JULY 9, 1776 – AFTER A PUBLIC READING OF
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
SEE PAGE 24 FOR THE STORY**

EARLY WARNING
**COASTAL COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER PERMIT
FOR STATE PARKS/APCD DUST MITIGATION PLAN
THURSDAY JULY 9, 2020**

9:00 AM – VIRTUAL MEETING
<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/request-testimony/thursday/>

THIS WEEK

**NO BOS MEETING
FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS**

NO SLOCOG MEETING IN JULY

LAST WEEK

**APCD DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT APPROVED WITH VERY
EXPANSIVE TIME-OFF PROVISIONS**

**PLANNING COMMISSION REACTION TO MORE STRICT
CANNABIS REGULATIONS MIXED**

**SLO COLAB IN DEPTH
SEE PAGE 11**

WOKE ELITE BETRAYS TRUTH, ART, AND HISTORY
COWARDICE AND POLITICAL VANDALISM
BY MIKE BROWN



WHY THE RIGHT FORESAW THE STATUES COMING DOWN

BY NOAH ROTHMAN

THE POWER OF ICONOCLASM, AND HOW TO KEEP IT FROM FADING

BY J L BELL

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisor Meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The Board is off for a 3-week summer recess. It will return on Tuesday July 7, 2020.

San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Meeting of Wednesday, July 8, 2020 (Canceled)

With the 5 Supervisors off on summer recess and some of the cities off, there could be trouble obtaining a quorum. As of this this writing the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), which meets the same day as the SLOCOG and which has the same members, is still scheduled. The RTA is always in budget trouble because so few people use buses and the State and Federal subsidies are always in flux. UBER and Lyft might be a more serviceable and economically efficient solution for those who cannot drive or cannot afford cars. Of course, the State is attempting to destroy them in various ways, especially by adopting AB 5, which attempts to outlaw independent contract employees.



Imagine if you had to go through this torture twice a day for 35 years of your working life.

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

No Board of Supervisors Meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 (Not Scheduled)

The Board will be on summer recess for the next 2 weeks.

San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution (District) Meeting of Wednesday, June 24, 2020 (Completed)

Item 0 (Un-Numbered Item): Air Pollution Control Officers Report. There was some pointed questioning by a few Board members about progress on work to reduce dust emissions from the off-road riding and camping areas of the Ocean Dunes State Park. It is hard to pin down how close they are to meeting the 50% reduction requirement. This irritates some of the Board and is a continual question from Bruce Gibson.

Separately, Supervisor Arnold asked the larger question about whether a 50% reduction actually means anything, since the assertion that off road vehicles are the cause is in dispute.

Numerous remote public speakers called in supporting the off-road riding and complaining about the restrictions. There were also calls from the local anti-riding regulars. In the end, the Coastal Commission holds the high cards over the State Parks Department in the form of permit controls.

Item B-2: Mini-controversy over Hearing Board Appointments. The APCD Hearing Board, which is an adjudicatory appeals Board, is made up of members who are physicians, doctors, and other experts. One of the Engineer slots is vacant. Apparently and at the last minute, a question came up about the qualifications of a member who has been serving and is up for re-appointment. Supervisor Gibson also had a question regarding the potential conflict of interest of a nominee who is employed by Phillips 66, since the refinery is regulated by the APCD.

Chair Peschong saved the Board further embarrassment, tabled the matter, and the Board directed staff and Counsel to work on it and report back to the Board.

Item B-5: Mucho Time Off - Employment Contract Changes for the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO). The Board approved the contract unanimously, notwithstanding the extensive time off provisions. There were no questions or comments. The item is a follow-up to the Board's performance review. Because it is a matter of total compensation it had to be brought back before the Board in open session.

Background: The new contract is pretty standard for a district manager. The subject matter is fairly technical. The straight salary is \$174,240, which with benefits such as pension, social security, health insurance, and other allowances, is a total compensation estimated to be around \$242,936. Other provisions are described in the contract paragraph below:

Vacation, Holidays, Sick Leave, and Administrative Leave. Employee shall be entitled to twenty (20) vacation days annually. Employee will be entitled to twelve (12) paid holidays per year on the same

schedule as employees of the SLOAPCD, and one (1) paid personal leave day. Employee shall be entitled to twelve (12) days of paid sick leave per year and shall be entitled to accrue any unused sick leave up to a maximum of 260-days (2,080 hours). Employee is also entitled to paid administrative leave of twenty-one (21) ~~six (6) days per year~~. Employee is further entitled to cash-out a maximum of 80 hours vacation time each fiscal year, provided Employee has already used 40 hours of vacation time during the fiscal year. At the end of employment, employee shall be entitled to full compensation for all unused vacation and administrative leave, and shall be compensated at his most recent hourly rate for fifty percent (50%) of accrued sick leave up to 1,440 hours.

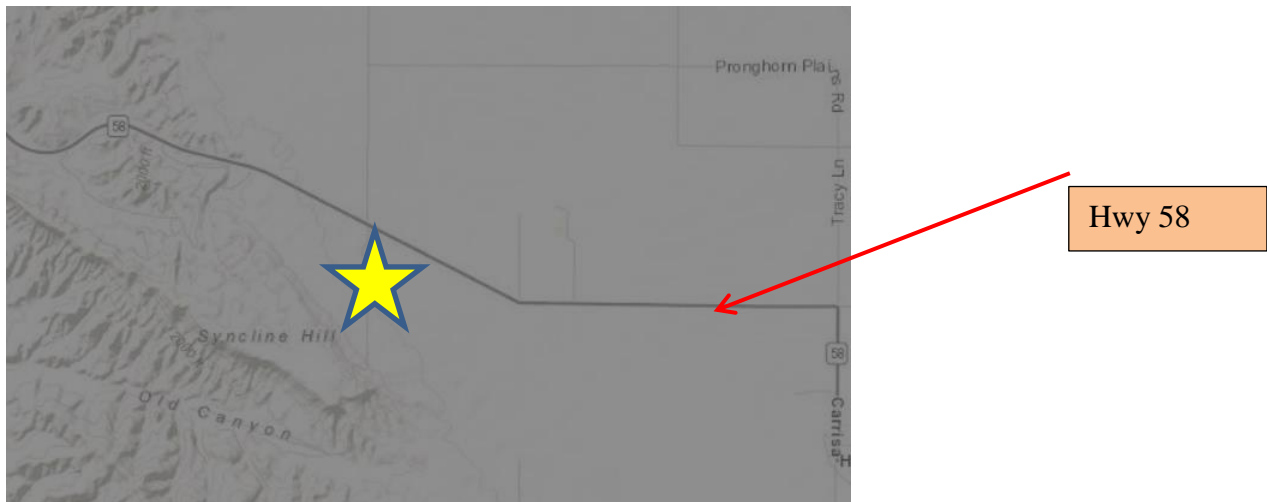
Sick, vacation, and holidays add up to 44 days. Why would the APCO be given 21 paid administrative leave days on top of the 44 days? This would bring the total paid time off to 65 days. An average work month contains about 21 days. In effect, he would be entitled to 3.1 work months, or 13 weeks off. This seems excessive on top of everything else. Note that if he does not get sick he can keep half of all sick leaves up to 1,440 hours and cash it out at retirement. The contract is silent about outside employment, such as consulting for other agencies or a private sector company. Nor does it require that the APCO devote full time to the job with the SLO APCD. Will he be allowed to do other work with all the time off? There was no discussion and no answer.



Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, June 25, 2020 (Completed)

Item 3 - Hearing to consider a request by Arvus Axium (Caleb Wendorff) for a Conditional Use Permit (DRC2018-00154) (Previously DRC2018-00173) to authorize the multi-phased development of up to 3 acres of outdoor cannabis cultivation canopy in hoop houses; up to 40,824 square feet of commercial nursery area in hoop houses; up to 22,000 square feet of indoor cultivation canopy in greenhouses; 15,000 square feet of indoor processing; and 12,000 square feet of indoor commercial nursery. Project development would consist of the construction of 36,000 square feet of greenhouse space, a 15,000 square foot processing building for trimming, drying, curing and storage of onsite product, 480 square feet of office space, and installation of nine water storage tanks for irrigation use and one water storage tank for fire suppression. The project will result in the disturbance of approximately 10.2 acres on two parcels totaling approximately 41 acres. The project site is in the Agricultural land use category and is located at 8015 Carrisa Highway, about 38 miles East of the community of Santa Margarita in the Carrizo Planning Area of the North County Planning Area. Also to be considered at the hearing will be adoption of the Environmental Document prepared for the item. The project was approved 3/1 with Commissioner Campbell dissenting. The 4th District commissioner slot is vacant. Commissioner Brown indicated that he was voting for approval reluctantly. Both Campbell and Brown expressed concern about the size and vertical integration of the project. Commissioner Campbell said he thought the project is really more of an industrial use than it is an agricultural use. He also noted that he had visited areas outside Salinas where large operations were a problem for other farms and residents due to the odor.

Background: This is an extensive vertically integrated operation located out on Highway 58.



Project Location

Project Description / Uses

Cultivation

- *Outdoor – 3 acres*
 - *Indoor – 22,000 sf*
- Commercial Nursery*
- *Outdoor – 40,824 sf*
 - *Indoor – 12,000 sf*

Ancillary Uses

- *Processing - drying, curing, trimming, packaging*

and

Project Description / Site Development

- *Outdoor Cultivation hoop houses: 163,296 sf*
- *Indoor Cultivation 8 greenhouses : (8 x 3,000) = 24,000 sf*
- *Processing building: 15,000 sf*
- *Outdoor Commercial Nursery hoop houses: 40,824 sf*
- *Indoor Commercial Nursery 4 greenhouses: (4 x 3,000) = 12,000 sf*
- *1 Mobile Security Office building: 480 sf*
- *Additional Features:*
 - *Access/parking Improvements, Engineered Swale, Secure Fencing*

Staff had recommended approval of the project, as it meets all the requirements. The permittee will have to provide extensive protections for the badgers, kit foxes, rats, etc.



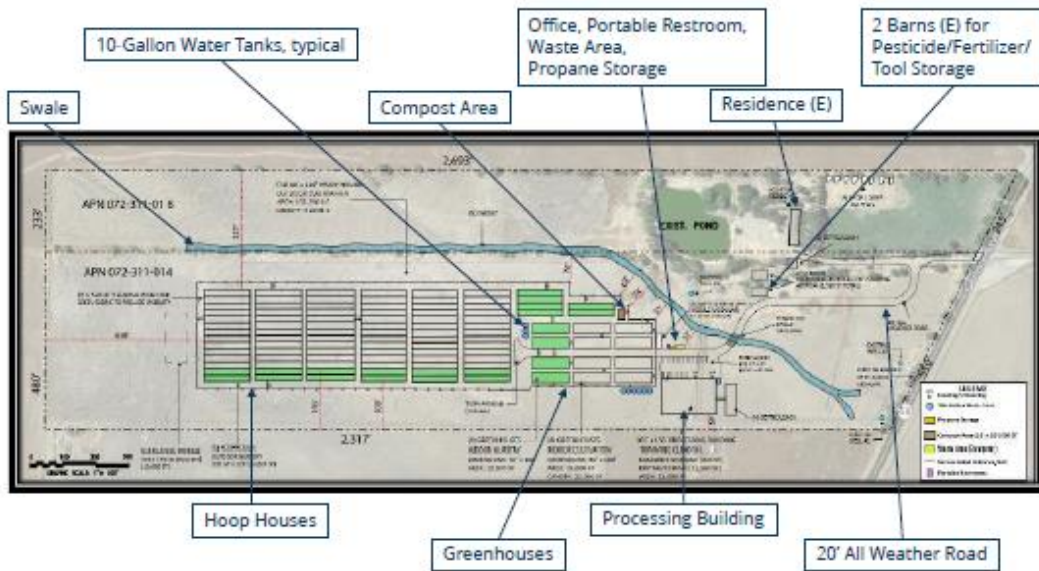
Parcel in Relation to Hwy 58



North American Badger

Special trails through the facility must be provided for transiting animals. The size, scope, and presumed cost of permitting and building this facility in the teeth of the very strict State and local regulatory requirements underscore the growing sophistication and financial capability of the cannabis industry.

There was no public opposition and one speaker who supported the project.



Parcel Development Plan

Item 4 - Hearing to consider a request by the County of San Luis Obispo for an amendment to the Land Use Ordinance and Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance, Title 22 and Title 23 of the County Code (LRP2019- 00005. LRP2019-00006) as applicable to Cannabis Activities. The proposed amendments include enhanced enforcement violations, increased distance buffers from sensitive receptors, revisions to water offset requirements, disallowing re-permitting if an operation ceases or code violations occur, requiring fully enclosed ventilation systems, and revising standards for ancillary nursery to be encompassed in overall cannabis cultivation

area. The Commissioners voted 4/0 to send its list of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The Board had requested the Planning staff and the Commission to study 8 potential changes in the ordinances regulating cannabis. These were and are generally oriented toward strengthening the regulations and making the growing, processing, and retailing of cannabis more difficult.

Per the Board of Supervisors request last year, staff returned with a cafeteria of potential expanded regulatory controls on cannabis. Accordingly, the Commission reviewed them and made recommendations to the Board. The key areas under consideration include:

- 1. Establish enforcement related remedies for cannabis violations, including options and scenarios related to a “3-strike” policy*
- 2. Increase buffer distance from schools and other sensitive receptors,*
- 3. Evaluate and analyze options to prohibit outdoor cultivation*
- 4. Disallow the payment of water offset fees over the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin*
- 5. Disallow re-permitting if an operation ceases or violation occurs (no “revolving door”)*
- 6. Require enclosed ventilation systems on indoor grows*
- 7. Evaluate and analyze drying in hoop houses, and*
- 8. Revise standards for ancillary nurseries to be encompassed in the overall cannabis cultivation area.*

Before tackling each issue, the Commission wisely sought to define the overall landscape as it pertains to several global the issues.

First, they wanted to make it clear that they supported the notion that no applicant for a permit who is currently in the pipeline be punished by being retroactively subjected to the new more restricted requirement. Those applicants (102 currently) will continue to be processed under the current rules.

Secondly, they sought clarification of the 5-year renewal issue. Under the current ordinances, an approved cannabis operation will have to come in for re-permitting every 5 years. A major question is: Should they be subject to the requirements which were in place at the time they were originally permitted, or will they have to comply with the new, stricter requirements. If the new requirements are adopted by the Board, many operations would not be able to meet them. For example, if the Board were to adopt the provision banning outdoor grows, all the outdoor grows would become illegal and could not qualify for a new permit.

Would they continue as legal nonconforming uses, or would they be put out of business? This circumstance raises messy legal issues, such as taking of private property without compensation. They were permitted under the existing rules, made investment decisions, and presumably will have built a business.

The Commissioners seemed to think that they should remain under the rules that were in place when they were first permitted. This concern will be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors.

A third global issue is the date when the new ordinances take effect. This will be especially important for those applicants already in the pipeline and those who are not yet in the pipeline but who are on the list of 141 potential applicants who are to be allowed into the pipeline under provisions of the original moratorium. These people may also have made investment decisions, but

the new stricter ordinances could render their projects infeasible. For example, new stricter distance from other cannabis grows could render their parcel infeasible and thus not permissible.

The Commission adopted, or not, recommendations to the Board on the 8 issues summarized above as follows:

- 1. Enhanced Enforcement policies/3 strikes and you're out.** The Commission tied on a straw vote 2/2. The tie will be reported to the Board of Supervisors.
- 2. Buffer Distances from sensitive receptors.** These will be 1,500 ft. from the sensitive receptors and includes the 300 ft. from neighboring property lines. There was some concern that the 300 ft. would be added to the 1500 ft. This recommendation again tied 2/2. There is some sentiment for including residences as sensitive receptors. Up until now, they have been schools, parks, playgrounds, health facilities, and similar land uses.
- 3. Prohibition of outdoor cultivation.** The Commission on a 4/0 vote determined to recommend against this provision.
- 4. Fees for water offsets in Paso Basin Development – cash for grass.** The staff pointed out that the Paso Basin water moratorium already contains this provision, and everyone, not just cannabis operators, is subject to it. The Commission made no additional recommendation.
- 5. Disallow re-permitting if an operation ceases or violation occurs (no “revolving door”).** Commissioner Multari pointed out that that eventually this would amortize out the entire industry. He went on to chastise the Board majority, stating, “Why don’t they be more up front and just state that they want to ban cannabis?” Commissioner Ortiz Legg piled on, stating that “such a rule would be anti-business, irresponsible, and cast a dark cloud over the County.” The Commission rejected this provision, 4/0.
- 6. Require both ventilation and carbon filtration on indoor grows, rather than just ventilation with a masking agent.** The Commission recommended this provision, 3/1.
- 7. Disallow drying in hoop houses.** The Commission strongly opposed this one because many ag crops are dried or otherwise readied for shipment in hoop houses for shipment to the chiller or other processing facilities. The Commission felt this would be an awful precedent that could be seized upon by the ranchette vigilantes to attack other crops. It could also mean that the hoop houses would require building permits in order to obtain an exemption, which in turn could invoke mandated plumbing, electric and structural requirements. The Commission recommended against this provision, 4/0.
- 8. Revise standards for ancillary nurseries to be encompassed in the overall cannabis cultivation area:** Neither the staff nor the Commission could think of any rationale for adopting such a provision: It's all cannabis. The Commission recommended against this provision, 4/0.

Separately, the Commission did not discuss the oppressive new energy requirements which the staff placed in the specimen ordinances. The Board will need to carefully examine this one.

Energy requirements:

- a. A detailed inventory of energy demand prepared by a Certified Energy Analyst. The inventory shall include an estimate of total energy demand from all sources associated with all proposed cannabis cultivation activities including, but not limited to, lighting, odor management, processing, manufacturing and climate control equipment. The quantification of demand associated with electricity shall be expressed in total kilowatt hours (kWh) per year; demand associated with natural gas shall be converted to kWh per year.*
- i. Specific steps to be taken to minimize energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project. Such steps may include, but are not limited to:*
- ii. Source project energy demands from renewable energy sources;*
- iii. Evidence documenting the permanent retrofit or elimination of equipment, buildings, facilities, processes, or other energy saving strategies to provide a net reduction in electricity demand and/or GHG emissions.*
- iv. Construction of a qualified renewable energy source such as wind, solar photovoltaics, biomass, etc., as part of the project.*
- v. Purchase of greenhouse gas offset credits from any of the following recognized and reputable voluntary carbon registries.*
- Inland Public Hearing Draft*
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- vi. Installation of battery storage to offset nighttime energy use.*
- vii. Any combination of the above or other qualifying strategies or programs that would achieve a reduction or offset of project energy demand and GHG emissions.*

Bottom line, the Commission was organized, efficient, and sent its recommendation to the Board.



COLAB IN DEPTH

IN FIGHTING THE TROUBLESOME, LOCAL DAY-TO-DAY ASSAULTS ON OUR FREEDOM AND PROPERTY, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE LARGER UNDERLYING IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC CAUSES

WOKE ELITE BETRAYS TRUTH, ART, AND HISTORY

COWARDICE AND POLITICAL VANDALISM

BY MIKE BROWN

The decision of the Board of Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) to remove its historic Theodore Roosevelt statue might be an interim measure to save the statue from the mob. They might figure that Thermidor¹ will come and the statue could be returned to its pedestal on the front steps. In the end, the Trustees will find that the mob will always be one demand ahead of them and will ultimately come for them personally.

In a gutless, virtue-signaling, historically flawed rationale, the Board's bigwig President Ellen Sutter, former major New York law firm member, former Barnard College President, and national education leader issued the official statement:

"Over the last few weeks, our Museum community has been profoundly moved by the ever-widening movement for racial justice that has emerged after the killing of George Floyd," Ellen Sutter, the president of the American Museum of Natural History, said in a [staff memo](#). "We also have watched as the attention of the world and the country has increasingly turned to statues and monuments as powerful and hurtful symbols of systemic racism."

"As we strive to advance our institution's, our City's, and our country's passionate quest for racial justice, we believe that removing the Statue (of Theodore Roosevelt) will be a symbol of progress and

¹ For historians of revolutionary movements, the term Thermidor has come to mean the phase in some revolutions when power slips from the hands of the original revolutionary leadership and a radical regime is replaced by a more conservative regime, sometimes to the point where the political pendulum may swing back towards something resembling a pre-revolutionary state. In his book *The Revolution Betrayed*, Leon Trotsky alleges that the rise of Joseph Stalin to power was a Soviet Thermidor. The Thermidorian Reaction (French: Réaction thermidorienne or Convention thermidorienne, "Thermidorian Convention") is the common term, in the historiography of the French Revolution, for the period between the ousting of Maximilien Robespierre on 9 Thermidor II, or 27 July 1794, to the inauguration of the French Directory on 1 November 1795. The "Thermidorian Reaction" was named after the month in which the coup took place, and was the latter part of the National Convention's rule of France. It was marked by the end of the Reign of Terror, decentralization of executive powers from the Committee of Public Safety, and a turn from the radical leftist policies of the Montagnard Convention to more conservative positions. Economic and general populism, dechristianization, and harsh wartime measures were largely abandoned, as the members of the Convention, disillusioned and frightened of the centralized government of the Terror, preferred a more stable political order that would have the approval of the affluent.

of our commitment to build and sustain an inclusive and equitable Museum community and broader society," Sutter said.



Thus and instead of an effort to protect the statue, which has been beloved by generations of New Yorkers, the Board's action is a sycophantic betrayal of their office (after all it's a museum) to the mob as well as a cowardly surrender to NYC's Socialist Mayor William De Blasio (who is an ex-officio member of the AMNH Board). Worse yet, it's a blatant attempt to appease the fascist mob led by Antifa, Black Lives Matter, and the usual cadre of race baiting corporate shakedown hucksters like Al Sharpton, Elisabeth Warren, Jessie Jackson, and Harry Reid. Note that the term race baiter does not pertain to a particular race or culture group.

The Board of Trustees is composed of some of most gilt-edged elite corporate leaders ever assembled on a major board of trustees in the last two centuries. Consequently, they are accustomed to the shakedown ritual, as many have played along for years in their business lives. Overwhelmingly Ivy League educated, (particularly Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton) the members are CEOs (or spouses of founders and CEOs) of major corporations such as Coca Cola, Metropolitan Life

² For example the Washington Post Newspaper has labeled Fox News commentators Tucker Carlson, Geraldo Rivera, and Laura Ingram as race baiters.

Insurance, New York Life Insurance, Morgan Stanley, LeFrak Real-Estate (the largest landlord in New York City), Amazon, TV personalities such as Tina Fey and Tom Brokaw, and a number of former high ranking Clinton and Obama staffers who run major law firms and investment banking houses. Some are scions of famous wealthy families from times past, including President Roosevelt's, great, great grandson, Theodore Roosevelt IV.⁴

He supports removal of the statute, stating, "We should move on."

Not So Fast: The sculpture group, more than a single statue, depicts Teddy Roosevelt in western garb on a horse reminiscent of his days as a Deputy Sheriff and cowboy in Billings County, North Dakota. He is accompanied by very majestic North American Plains Indian on one side and a similarly majestic African warrior on the other. The sculpture critics regard the work as racist and colonialist because Roosevelt is on a horse and two people of color are walking. It is asserted that it is therefore a symbol of repression of native peoples by whites in general and by Roosevelt in particular.

Prior to the recent protests related to police killings in particular, and the current explosion of race issues in general, the Museum went through a 2-year committee process, soliciting different points of view as well as receiving testimony from art experts on whether to remove or retain the statue. It even put on a temporary exhibit explaining the history and content of the statue. Both processes were inconclusive, but the Mayor was still pestering them to remove the statue. In any case the Trustees, perhaps grabbing the opportunity of the George Floyd death protests, requested the City of New York to remove the statue, as it is technically on City property. It is almost certain that removing the statue violates some very potent City ordinances designed to protect significant historical, architectural, and artistic features of the city without a permit application process, which goes through several commissions and requires expert analysis and opinion. The statue is on the City's official list of historic and artistic monuments which are to be preserved.

Those calling for removal of the statue, including the Trustees themselves and the Mayor, seem to be oblivious to the larger context on all fronts.

Historical, Artistic, and Architectural Context of the Statue and its Setting

Historical: Theodore Roosevelt was a Progressive (after 4 years retirement he ran and lost to Democrat Woodrow Wilson for President [a bona fide racist] in 1912) and populist who fought large corporations (the trusts in his day), fought discrimination in the Army, and was the first President to invite a Black person and civil rights leader to an official dinner in the White House (Frederick

⁴ Here again is a Harvard grad who followed his great, great grandfather's tradition of vigor as a Navy Seal officer with 2 tours in Viet Nam and retiring with the rank of Lt. Commander. He is now the Managing Partner of Barclays' Investment Bank in New York.

Douglass). In the latter case he was chastised in the press and many public forums nationally. He was a patriot and war hero, holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Nobel Peace Prize.

Not mentioned in the current purge attempt is the fact that Roosevelt was the first reformer of the New York Police Department as Commissioner in his early career. He sought to install professionalism, eliminate corruption, and insure that the Department operated in a lawful manner. Being Roosevelt, he was very hands on and went into the field during many nights.

Remember that the AMNH is a science and natural history museum which contains hundreds of thousands of real natural and human cultural objects, gathered from all of the world's continents and oceans. Roosevelt was a conservationist and promoted the natural environment (his administration bought the Grand Canyon and founded the National Parks System). Many of the Museum's objects and exhibits are cultural representations of the areas from which they were obtained. The peoples of the world and the nature around them are depicted in all their magnificence.

Artistic: The statue is one of over 800 officially listed monuments in the City of New York. The City Parks Department holds and maintains these as a public trust. Its purpose states in part:

The monuments and permanent art collection in New York City's parks constitutes the greatest outdoor public art museum in the United States. A veritable "who's who" of American art, it includes the work of nineteenth-century masters such as Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Daniel Chester French, and John Quincy Adams Ward, as well as contemporary subjects and conceptions by the likes of Louise Nevelson, George Segal, Alice Aycock, Robert Graham, and Allison Saar. More than 800 monuments, about 250 which are sculptures (including 125 statues honoring historical figures); grace our most prominent civic spaces as well as the many localities which constitute the greater metropolis. Ranging in size from commemorative tablets to triumphal arches, they honor people and events that helped shape our city, nation, and the international community. It is this cultural and aesthetic legacy that we wish to preserve.

For those who live or have lived in the City, and particularly as small children, these monuments constitute a treasured memory and tangible introduction to the natural universe, American civilization, and other world civilizations. For millions of annual visitors they are a thrilling and enriching experience, which confirms the magic of the City. As the 20th Century's greatest urbanist Lewis Mumford said, "They unite the past, the here, and the hereafter."⁵

Objective viewing of the statue does not show the Native American or African figures as being weak or subservient. The fact that they are walking is not deprecation at all. The figures are strong and display a regal countenance with a steady gaze. They are bearing hunting rifles in their hands. They appear to be much stronger than Roosevelt. The artist, William Andrew McKay, intended that the

⁵ Lewis Mumford, *The City In History* , 1963

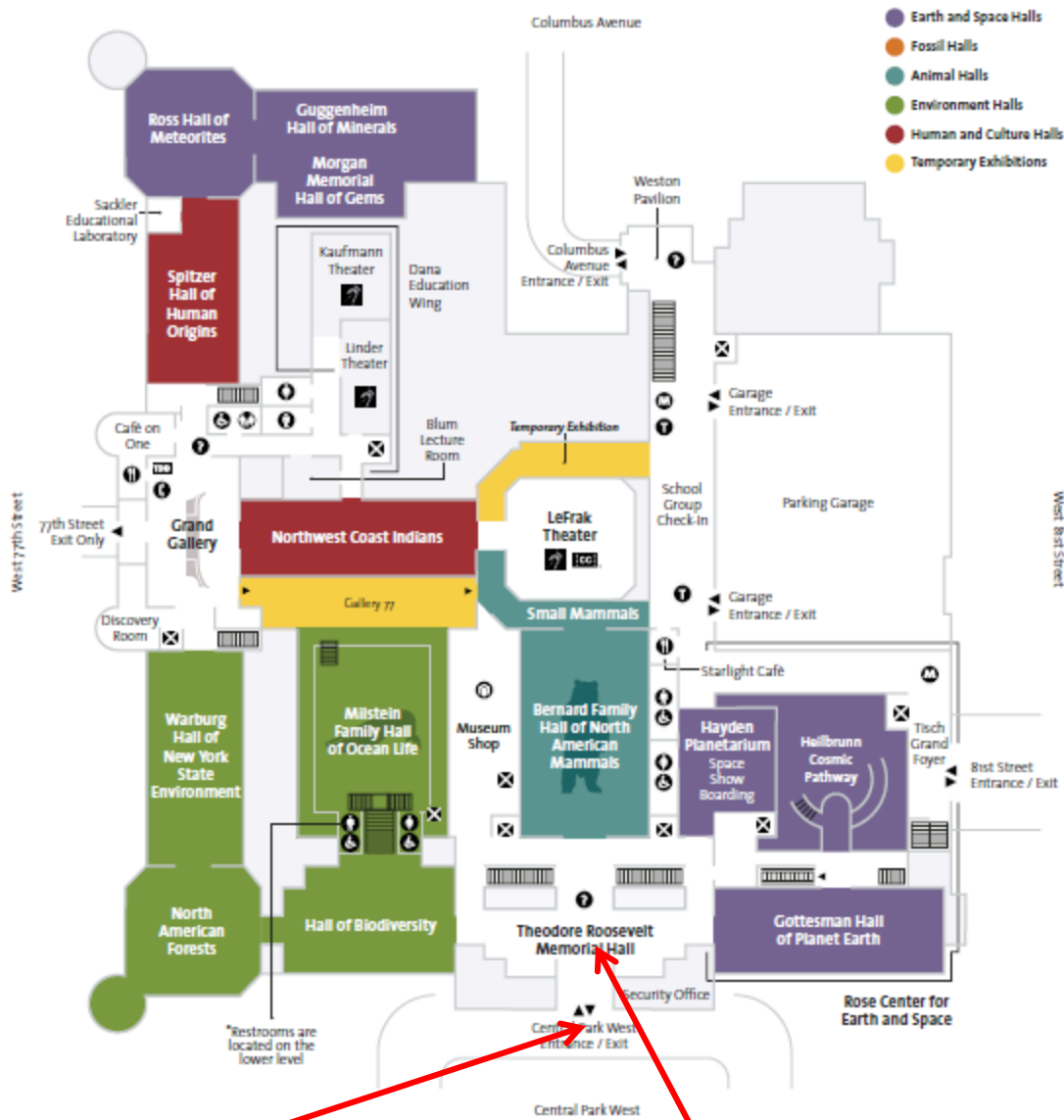
figures be allegorical representations of aspects of Roosevelt's life, some of which is heavily identified with the American West and some with Africa. Moreover they are emblematic representations of Africa and the Americas, not of slavery or oppression of indigenous Americans. The massive figures would seem to actually dignify them.

To label the sculpture as intrinsically and artistically racist is a shallow and uneducated view, or worse, a blatantly transparent effort to disgrace one of America's greatest Presidents and leaders while erasing history.



Architectural: The Museum was founded in 1869 by Roosevelt's father along with William E. Doge, Jr., Joseph Choate, and J. Pierpont Morgan. It was constructed in stages over decades with the idea of having a major sculpture on the stairs in line with the grand front doors facing Central Park West. The City and museum didn't get around to commissioning the sculpture until 1928, and then it took until 1940 to be completed and installed. The allegorical sculpture is part of a larger context of what is inside the door.

As noted in the first floor diagram below, the statue, the grand Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Rotunda, and the Hall of North American Mammals are an integrated architectural plan. The removal of the statue will then call into question the murals in the rotunda and the memorial in general. In the end and if this happens, it will be one of the most significant acts of politically inspired vandalism in the history of the United States.

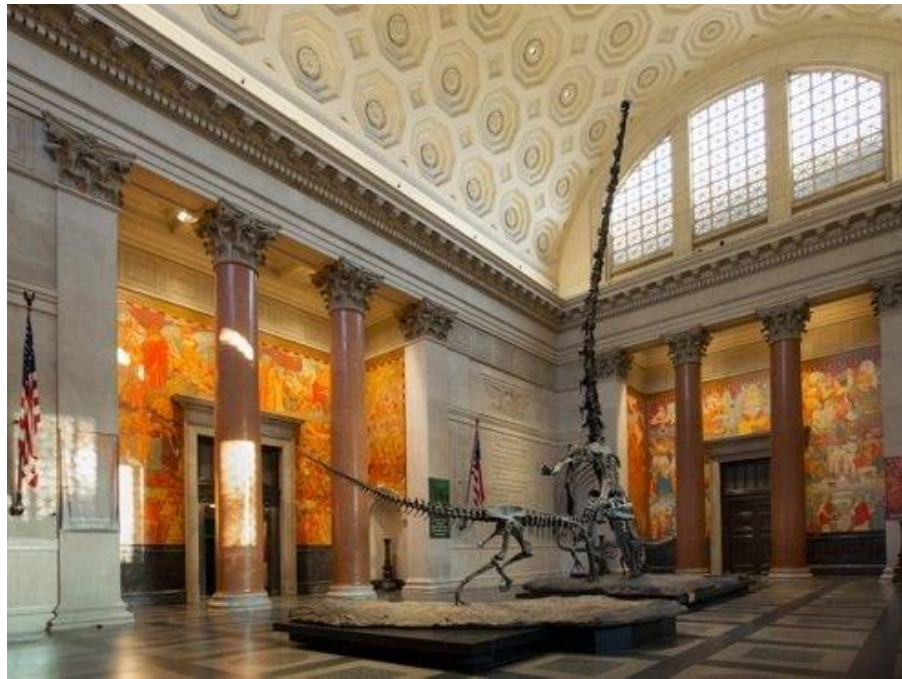


The statue is here.

The Memorial Rotunda is here.

There is vast 5-story grand rotunda, which is a memorial to Roosevelt and his family – as previously noted, his father was one of the founders of the Museum. The statue is a preview and beckoning as to what is inside.

Note the murals behind the pillars in the photo below. Again, these are metaphorical works depicting Roosevelt’s life and contributions.



The one below is one of the panels depicting Roosevelt in Africa on safari. Will these be next?



The next one, below, depicts the building of the Panama Canal, another huge Roosevelt achievement for the world, not just the United States. Note the allusion to the conquest of Malaria and Yellow Fever. To the right is US Army Major William Gorgas, who discovered that the diseases were

transmitted by mosquitos, the control of which allowed the canal to be built. People of different ethnicities are depicted as working on various aspects of the project.



The mural below on the next page depicts the age of exploration. The Aztec King Montezuma, Christopher Columbus, Queen Isabella, and an Asian Khan are all depicted. The panel is a reference to the Panama Canal connecting the diverse cultures of the world. If they remove the Roosevelt statue out front, the next demand will be to obliterate the entire memorial hall.



Given the ongoing attacks on Columbus, as well as Roosevelt, will these murals all be destroyed? Are we going to allow the American Woke Taliban to destroy our landmarks and culture, as the Afghan Taliban destroyed the massive World Heritage site of 1700 year old Buddhist statues?



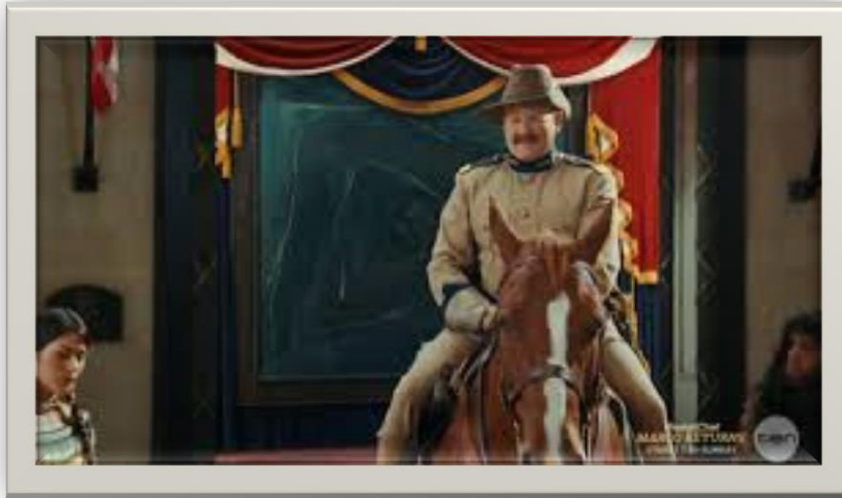
Before



After

Roosevelt in Popular Culture

Then there is the still popular *Night at the Museum* movie, where Teddy Roosevelt (in a Rough Rider uniform) and other figures come to life. Roosevelt appropriately becomes the guide. Should the movie be banned too?



And what about the Teddy Bear?

END NOTE



The SLO County Elephant Seal Vista Diorama at the Museum in the Hall of North American Mammals

WHY THE RIGHT FORESAW THE STATUES COMING DOWN

BY NOAH ROTHMAN

Across the country, the expression of outrage over the perception of racial discrimination in America’s police departments has evolved into a more far-reaching vehemence. An overdue reckoning with the monuments to traitors against the Union threatens to become an all-out attack on the Founders. At least, those who are perceived to have countenanced the institution of slavery.

In Portland, Oregon, a statue venerating Thomas Jefferson has been defaced, marred with graffiti labeling him a “slave owner,” and [torn from its pedestal](#). Elsewhere in the city, demonstrators [assaulted](#) a statue dedicated to George Washington. America’s first president was labeled a “genocidal colonist” and summarily ripped from his foundations with the same enthusiasm Muscovites displayed while removing Felix Dzerzhinsky from his ignominious post outside the Lubyanka. In Illinois, another Washington statue was [defaced](#) and barely withstood a crowd’s effort to bring it down.

This is not merely some inchoate expression of mob psychology. Institutions ostensibly dedicated to racial reconciliation and historical accuracy have been waging a campaign against these particular Founders for some time.

In 2015, Democratic Party officials across the country began renaming or abandoning annual “Jefferson-Jackson” dinners. The target of this correction was ostensibly Andrew Jackson; and Jefferson was just collateral damage. But that Jefferson could be sacrificed so easily was an ominous portent. In 2017, a Virginia-based church voted to mothball a memorial to Washington under the assumption that his visage rendered that house of worship hostile to minority congregants. This week, the City Council of New York City voted to remove a statue of Jefferson from City Hall. “I believe the New York City Council should neither ignore nor glorify this dark side of American history,” said Councilwoman Debi Rose.

Conservatives saw all this coming and they were relentlessly mocked for it. But they were right, and their foresight was based on the fullest understanding of the arguments that America’s historical revisionists tacitly endorsed but never scrutinized.

America’s reckoning with its history of racial discrimination progresses in fits and starts, and this present period of active introspection arguably began after the 2015 massacre of black churchgoers in South Carolina by a proudly anachronistic Confederate sympathizer. All at once, many parts of the country that once celebrated their more ignoble histories took a more critical look at the monuments that glossed over that shame.

There were many who resisted the removal of Confederate statuary, but those who advocated for the relegation of these landmarks to less hallowed locations made the better case: These tributes, they argued, were entirely negationist. Many of these attractions were erected in the 20th century, some in places far beyond the borders of the Confederacy. Indeed, the Confederate battle flag found its way onto state flags and capital grounds primarily as a response to the civil-rights movement. These were the products of an effort to burnish the rebellion’s reputation in service to a contemporary (and loathsome) political cause, not to provide a fuller understanding of American history.

In 2017, only 39 percent of [Quinnipiac University survey](#) respondents backed the removal of monuments to the Confederacy from the public square. Today, 52 percent of respondents agree with that notion. Americans are split down the middle, 47 to 47 percent, over whether U.S. Army bases named for Confederate generals should be renamed. But that, too, is a cultural milestone in a country in which Forts Benning, Bragg, and Rucker evoke feelings of patriotic pride whereas the Confederate generals after which they are named are historical footnotes.

But lurking behind this compelling argument was one that lacked any limiting principle. Those most committed to correcting a pervasive and revisionist understanding of American history had adopted a form of revisionism themselves. They argued that the sin of slavery and all those involved in the practice at any level had committed a grave offense—one that outweighed any positive contribution to the country’s founding. Only a [handful of activists](#) took this assertion to its logical conclusion, but it was left mostly to the American right to articulate the consequences of such advocacy.

When Donald Trump wondered whether it would be “George Washington next week” and “Thomas Jefferson the week after,” he was treated to haughty and dismissive dispatches in the mainstream press explaining why these Founders were more than just their proximity to slavery. These were

valuable missives, but Trump wasn't the right audience. They should have been directed at the activists who have taken their campus-based maximalism with them into the workforce.

The failure on the part of polite liberal opinion makers to anticipate this attack on America's foundations is a failure of imagination and an act of hubris. They assumed they spoke for the mob when it was the mob that spoke for them. But their revisionism was only ever as myopic as the South's hidebound dead-enders.

Thomas Jefferson's relationship with slavery is condemnable, but his tolerance of it was conflicted. He was not just the author of one of the most expansive definitions of what constitutes human liberty up to that point in history—a radical document that paved a paradigmatic road to Emancipation—he practiced this philosophy. Jefferson was the author of a law that served as the basis for the first anti-slavery legislation in America: the 1787 Northwest Ordinance. In a message to Congress as president, he wrote that “the morality, the reputation, and the best of our country have long been eager to proscribe” slavery. Like men of his time and many generations after, Jefferson regarded blacks as inferior. And yet, he resented the “unremitting despotism” and “degrading submissions” American slaves endured.

Washington—the American Cincinnatus who established the customs that preserved the presidency's diminutive constitutional status—is equally undeserving of the crowd's unmitigated scorn. He was a slave owner and a brutal one at that. But he, like all his successors in the White House until Lincoln, subordinated the issue of slavery to the imperative of maintaining the Union. Those who regard any compromise in service to the preservation of the Constitution as unacceptable must also reconcile how that document enabled the abolition of the international slave trade, involuntary servitude, and the equal protection clause upon which almost all modern anti-discrimination law is based. To square these competing facts is to muddy a simpler narrative preferred by our enlightened betters in which history's actors are rendered one-dimensional stick figures. But that isn't sophistication, and it boils down the complicated conduct of human events to a childish morality play.

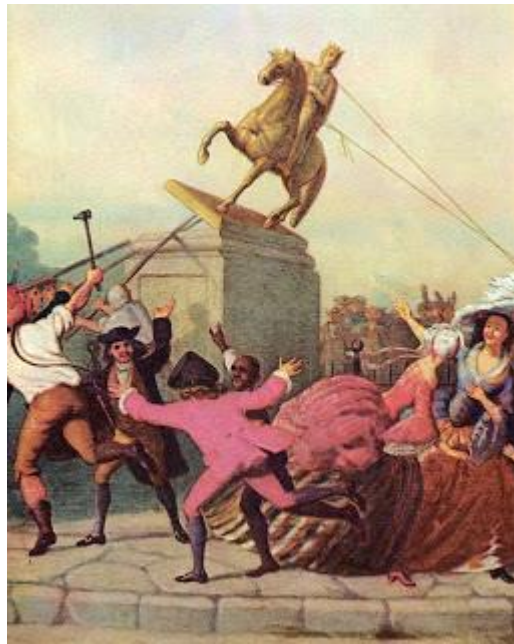
To judge our forebearers by the standards that prevail today is vanity. We do so not to seek a fuller understanding of their conditions but our own aggrandizement. We would replace the Founders' edifices with monuments to ourselves. Only the most self-indulgent could fail to see the folly in this pursuit. Look around you? Do you think for one moment that the generations that follow ours won't perceive us to be monsters deserving of infamy? Surely, no one who sees this vandalism as a virtue has given a second thought to how history will judge them. And posterity's verdict may not be as kind as they imagine.

Noah Rothman is the Associate Editor of *Commentary* and the author of *Unjust: Social Justice and the Unmaking of America*. This first Article first appeared in June 23, 2020 issue of *Commentary*.



He's Next

**THE POWER OF ICONOCLASM, AND HOW TO
KEEP IT FROM FADING
BY J L BELL**



Last month I attended [Wendy Bellion's lecture on "Representing Iconoclasm: Paint, Print, Performance"](#) at the [American Antiquarian Society](#). And I find that's clarified my thinking about the current campaign to change the seal of the Harvard Law School and the name of the Isaac Royall Professorship there.

On 9 July 1776, [New Yorkers](#) listened to a formal reading of the [Declaration of Independence](#),

marched from the city common down to the Bowling Green, and pulled down a gilded lead statue of King [George III](#). Most of that statue was melted down into musket balls, though a few pieces survive.

A few months later, the [British army](#) charged onto Manhattan, and the Crown held the city for the rest of the war. In the new republic, therefore, New York City didn't have a lot of good stories to tell about its history during the Revolutionary War. The toppling of the king's statue became one of the most important.

Bellion showed how that event was recreated in [paintings](#), [engravings](#), pageants, and parades from the early 1800s to the Bicentennial. In other words, the statue of King George was repeatedly reproduced so that it could be destroyed again.

That's the power and nature of iconoclasm. Once an icon has been removed, broken, or defaced, it starts to lose power—but so does the act of removing it. With no visible reminder and only a fading memory of that icon, the choice to erase it becomes less visible and memorable as well. To recall the act of iconoclasm in the most affecting way, a society has to recreate the very icon it tore down.

What might that phenomenon tell us about the current controversies about [slaveowners](#) or their defenders being featured in places of honor on college campuses? The campaign at Harvard Law School is called [Royall Must Fall](#), the very name evoking the images of a royal statue or emblem coming down.

The people campaigning to change those images or names acknowledge they're symbolic, and that the change would be symbolic as well. But such change would send the right message about the institution's values, a message that it is seeking to be more fair and inclusive than in the past.

However, just like pulling down New York's statue of King George, changing a building name or removing a statue would send that message only once. That particular symbol would lose its power and fade from memory. The act of removal and repudiation would thus also fade, muting its significance and its message for new students.

As New Yorkers ritually recreated and then pulled down the king's statue, they refreshed the memory of the city's 1776 choice of republicanism over monarchy. In the same way, Bostonians refresh the memory of the hated [East India Company tea](#) of 1773 by bringing in new tea each year—this year from the East India Company, even—only to toss it again into the harbor.

So could university communities create a stronger message of inclusion not by removing problematic symbols permanently but by creating recurrent ways to reexamine and reject the behavior behind them?

J. L. BELL is a Massachusetts writer who specializes in (among other things) the start of the American Revolution in and around Boston. He is particularly interested in the experiences of children in 1765-75. He has published scholarly papers and popular articles for both children and adults. He was consultant for an episode of History Detectives, and contributed to a display at Minute Man National Historic Park. This article first appeared in the blog: Boston 1775 of December 17, 2015.



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