Charleston Conference Future Dates

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**WALLENBERG ARCHIVE**  
**by Bruce Strauch**  
(The Citadel)

The acclaim for Raoul Wallenberg for his rescue of 20,000 Jews in Budapest came long after his arrest and murder by the Soviets. At the time, the craven Swedish Foreign Office was so frightened of alienating Russia that they refused to lift a hand to save him.

His parents and half-siblings spent six decades seeking him, in the process losing their savings, their mental health and the parents’ lives through suicide. They left behind a 50,000-page archive detailing their quest. This story joins the writings of Elie Wiesel, Anne Frank, and William Styron as a history of the Holocaust.


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**INVESTMENT BY BUREAUCRAT**  
**by Bruce Strauch**  
(The Citadel)

“529” plans are a tax-free way to save for your kid’s college education. But they’re “based partly on a false premise: that state bureaucrats are good at managing other people’s money.” Of the 3,506 options, 93% have dropped in value and a third of them by at least 40%.

Properly done, the investment would start heavy in stocks but move into cash and bonds as the student hits college. But Utah kept 65% in stock, and Maine and New Mexico had no allocation to cash.

“…look at the asset allocation for the 16- to 18-year-olds looks as if it was designed by the 5-year-olds.”


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**TOP NOVELS ON THE GREAT DEPRESSION**  
**by Bruce Strauch**  
(The Citadel)

Your reading list for the pending collapse: (1) *Now in November*, by Josephine Winslow Johnson (Simon & Schuster, 1934); (2) *The Big Money*, by John Dos Passos (Harcourt, Brace, 1936); (3) *Appointment in Samarra*, by John O’Hara (Harcourt, Brace, 1934); (4) *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck (John Day, 1931); (5) *The Day of the Locust* by Nathanael West (Random House, 1939).


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**BOOING IS GOOD**  
**by Bruce Strauch**  
(The Citadel)

The author bemoans the near-reflexive standing ovation that has devalued the gesture and lauds loud boos by the audience at the Met’s 1992 Met production of “Lucia di Lammermoor,” as “additional moments of theatrical action.”

Francesca Zambello’s deliberately provocative 2009 production of “Lucia di Lammermoor,” was booed, and Francesca said it hurt, but it at least showed the audience was involved with what they had seen and heard.

And in other positive outcomes, Henry James’ play “Guy Domville” was roundly jeered, convincing him to turn his back on the stage and concentrate on novel writing.


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**BLACKBERRYING YOUR WAY TO HIGH STRESS**  
**by Bruce Strauch**  
(The Citadel)

Ah yes, the books that nail down what it is to be an American at a point in time.  
Max Weber’s *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, (1905);  
William Whyte’s *The Organization Man* (1956);  

And now we have NYU sociologist Dalton Conley’s Elsewhere, USA where “intraviduals” live as slaves to technology desperately trying to manage multiple data streams, telecommuting and multitasking themselves into perpetual anxiety.

And along the way, he explains the income gap. The computer obliterated low-skill jobs. Any high-tech job needing a human touch was outsourced to India. Low-skill jobs left in America? Food service preparation and home health care.

And then there’s mating habits. Contrary to dogma, men do not marry down; they find their own level. Low-income men end up with low-income women; high-income marry their equals.