

Eye on the World

Dec. 10, 2016

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Dec. 10, 2016.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man” (Weymouth New Testament).



A Reuters article by Julia Fioretti titled “Web Giants to Cooperate on Removal of Extremist Content” was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 5, 2016. Following is the article.

Web giants YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Microsoft will step up efforts to remove extremist content from their websites by creating a common database.

The companies will share ‘hashes’—unique digital fingerprints they automatically assign to videos or photos—of extremist content they have removed from their websites to enable their peers to identify the same content on their platforms.

“We hope this collaboration will lead to greater efficiency as we continue to enforce our policies to help curb the pressing global issue of terrorist content online,” the companies said in a statement on Tuesday.

Tech companies have long resisted outside intervention in how their sites should be policed, but have come under increasing pressure from Western governments to do more to remove extremist content following a wave of militant attacks.

YouTube and Facebook have begun to use hashes to automatically remove extremist content.

But many providers have relied until now mainly on users to flag content that violates terms of service. Flagged material is then individually reviewed by human editors who delete postings found to be in violation.

Twitter suspended 235,000 accounts between February and August this year and has expanded the teams reviewing reports of extremist content.

Each company will decide what image and video hashes to add to the database and matching content will not be automatically removed, they said.

The database will be up and running in early 2017 and more companies could be brought into the partnership.

The European Union set up an EU Internet Forum last year bringing together the internet companies, interior ministers and the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator to find ways of removing extremist content.

The Forum will meet again on Thursday, when ministers are expected to ask the companies about their efforts and helping to provide evidence to convict foreign fighters.



A Reuters article titled "Germany Urges Israel to Scrap 'Illegal' Settlement Bill" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 7, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

Germany urged Israel in unusually strong language on Wednesday to scrap legislation that would legalize Israeli settlement homes built on private Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank, saying this would break international law.

Germany tends to be more reserved than other European nations in its criticism of Israel due to the legacy of the Nazi Holocaust, but it has objected in the past few years to Israeli settlement expansion on land Palestinians want for a state.

Israel's parliament gave initial approval on Monday to a revised bill on the settlement homes, a move that has drawn international condemnation and follows the victory in the Nov. 8 U.S. presidential election of Donald Trump, one of whose aides has hinted at a more tolerant U.S. stance on settlements.

A German Foreign Ministry spokesman told a regular government news conference: "We're extremely concerned about this development and have noted with consternation statements made by Israeli government officials during this debate.

"Such a bill violates international law," he said, adding that Israel would undermine its commitment to finding a "two-state solution"—a Palestinian state in territory Israel captured in a 1967 war—if the bill were passed.

Asked whether Germany and the European Union should punish Israel with economic or diplomatic sanctions, the spokesman said: "We don't think that sanctions would be the right path in this case to make headway in the Middle East peace process."

The last round of U.S.-brokered Israeli-Palestinian peace talks collapsed in April 2014, with settlements among the key issues. Most countries consider Israeli settlements on occupied land to be illegal. Israel disputes this.



A Reuters article by Maayan Lubell titled "Netanyahu in High States Gamble With New Settlement Bill" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 7, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's support for a bill that would legalize Israeli settlement homes on private Palestinian land in the West Bank is seen in Israel as another feint in a power struggle within his ruling right-wing coalition.

But critics in Israel and abroad fear that Netanyahu's machinations aimed at appeasing political partners could have grave consequences internationally, even if the law does not survive likely court challenges.

Preliminary approval for the bill granted by parliament on Monday has alarmed the United States, European Union and United Nations, raising the possibility of some sort of U.N. resolution before President Barack Obama's term is up in January.

Israeli officials are also concerned that the bill could provide grounds for prosecution by the International Criminal Court in The Hague. It prompted particularly strong criticism from Germany.

Netanyahu himself cited possible court action when he initially opposed the legislation promoted by the far-right Jewish Home party and its leader, Naftali Bennett. Palestinians condemned the bill as a land grab in territory they seek for a state.

But for the fourth-term prime minister, failure to support the bill would have ceded ground to Bennett in their pursuit of conservative voters that form the power base of both Jewish Home and Netanyahu's Likud.

"Naftali Bennett has scared him more than the U.S. administration and more than the European Union. Even though Netanyahu has been prime minister for 11 years, he still remains more a politician than a leader," Amnon Abramovitz, political analyst for Israeli Channel Two, told Reuters.

The bill passed its first reading in the legislature with 58 lawmakers voting in favor and 51 opposed. It will require two more votes, probably next week, to become law.

The legislation could ultimately be overturned by Israel's Supreme Court, where human rights groups are widely expected to challenge the effective expropriation of privately owned land.

Some political commentators in Israel have suggested that Netanyahu could be relying on the court to kill the bill.

In the five decades since Israel captured the West Bank, it has built about 120 formal settlements on the territory. Most of the world deems them illegal and an obstacle to peace with the Palestinians, who aim to establish a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital.

As well as those settlements, which Israel fully supports, settlers have established more than 100 outposts, many on hilltops across the West Bank, often with tacit government support.

Under the new bill, 55 of the outposts will have official sanction, according to Israeli settlement watchdog Peace Now. Compensation would be offered to Palestinian land owners.

Far-right parties have been emboldened by Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election in November. Shortly after Trump's election, Bennett, who advocates Israeli annexation of part of the West Bank, announced: "The era of the Palestinian state is over."

Trump has pledged to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a city that Israel regards as/ its capital—a claim that has not won international recognition.



An article by Bob Weir titled "Rafael Cruz Remembers Life in Cuba" was posted at americanthinker.com on Dec. 1, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

To shed some light on the death of Fidel Castro, I did an interview with Senator Ted Cruz's father Rafael, who lived under the oppressive regime of the Cuban dictator.

Have you ever had experiences in which you felt as though your government was taking unfair advantage of you, and it seemed as though you had no power to do anything about it?

Have you written your congressman, senator, or county commissioner several times and only received form-letter responses?

I suppose that everyone has felt that way from time to time. On the other hand, after you've finished complaining, did you ever feel that your life was threatened? If not, you've never lived under a dictatorship.

As Americans, we take freedom for granted because we've always had it. That's why it's important for us to hear from those who have lived in places where freedom doesn't exist.

"I was 17 years old when I spoke out publicly against the corrupt regime of Fulgencio Batista," said Rafael Cruz, who was born in Cuba. As a result of his opposition to the brutal tactics being used against his people, he became a

recipient of that brutality. Rafael was arrested, thrown in a cell, and repeatedly beaten by prison guards.

"Every four hours, they'd come back in my cell to beat me again," he said. "The pain became so unbearable that I lost feeling in my arms and legs," he added reflectively.

About a year later, with the help of his parents, he was able to flee the autocratic island and he found his way to Austin, Texas. Fearing that he might be robbed before he got away, his mother had sewn \$100 into his underwear to give him a start in his new country. Although he didn't speak English, he had a voracious appetite for education and a strong work ethic.

"I used to go to the movies to listen to the actors speaking English and watch carefully how they formed the words," Rafael said. "In those days, you could stay in the theater to see the movies over and over, so I would spend as many hours as possible, absorbing the words and speech patterns until I was able to grasp the language."

He also carried an English dictionary with him all the time and constantly studied it. He got a job washing dishes and worked seven days a week to pay for a college education at the University of Texas, where he met his future wife. They both had a natural aptitude for mathematics, so they immersed themselves in technical fields of study.

Soon after graduating, they started their own business, doing seismic data processing for oil companies. From this very inauspicious beginning, they raised a son who became the state solicitor general, representing Texas in cases before the Supreme Court of the United States.

To recap, the son of a Cuban immigrant, who fled a dictatorship to find freedom in America, raised a son who became a member of the most powerful legislative body in the world and who became a frontrunner for the Republican nomination for president in 2016.

During a lunch meeting at my home, the senior Cruz also talked about the Fidel Castro regime, which came to power in 1959 after a revolution that drove Batista into exile. Sadly, they replaced one dictator with another.

"Castro rations food, clothing, and all the other things we take for granted here," Rafael said. "The people are allowed to buy a pound of meat per month. If you violate the rules, you get thrown in prison for years." He related a story about a friend from Cuba who visited Texas a few years ago and went to dinner at a restaurant. "When he saw the size of the steak on his plate, he began to cry," Rafael said. "'This amount of meat would feed my family for a month.' "

When Rafael Cruz speaks at Republican gatherings in Denton County, Texas and across the United States, his passion for this country is palpable. "Except for the Bible, the two greatest documents ever written are the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence," he says, with fingers jabbing at the air.

Perhaps we shouldn't be blamed for not cherishing our freedom because we've always had it, much like people who have always been rich; hence, they can't relate to being poor. Those who often forget how great this country is should spend an hour with Rafael Cruz to get an idea of how lucky they are.



An article titled "7.8 Earthquake Strikes in the Solomon Islands" was posted at abc30.com on Dec. 8, 2016. Following is the article.

Tsunami warnings for several Pacific islands, including those in Hawaii, were canceled Friday after authorities determined that a powerful magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck near the Solomon Islands did not pose a broad tsunami threat.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said waves of up to 3 meters (10 feet) were still possible along the coast of the Solomon Islands and smaller tsunami waves could hit Papua New Guinea.

There were reports of some power outages in the Solomon Islands, although there were no immediate reports of widespread damage or injuries from the quake.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake hit about 200 kilometers (120 miles) southeast of Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands. The epicenter was relatively deep at 48 kilometers (30 miles) below the surface. Deeper quakes generally cause less damage on the ground.

The Solomon Islands are located in the Pacific's geologically active "Ring of Fire."



An article titled "6.5-Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Off Coast of Northern California" was posted at abc7.com on Dec. 8, 2016. Following is the article.

An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 struck about 100 miles off the coast of Northern California Thursday morning, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The quake struck at 6:50 a.m. and had a depth of 6.2 miles.

It hit about 110 miles off the coast of Eureka, which is 250 miles north of San Francisco.

USGS initially registered the earthquake as magnitude-6.9, but downgraded it about 15 minutes later.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said there was no tsunami threat. There were also no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

A hotel front desk worker at the Gingerbread Mansion Inn in Ferndale, a city in Humboldt County, said the temblor was "definitely felt" for about 15-20 seconds, but there was no damage.

Two smaller-scale quakes followed just hours after the first. A 4.7-magnitude quake hit near the same epicenter about two hours later, and a 2.9 temblor struck southwest of Rio Dell at about 10 a.m.



An article by Paul Bedard titled "Obama Family Travel, Vacations Cross \$85 Million Mark" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Dec. 5, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

The first family has spent over \$10 million a year on travel and vacations, and the still growing bill has crossed over \$85 million in eight years, according to a watchdog group.

Judicial Watch, which has charted the travel of presidents for years, on Monday said that it has received a new batch of bills for the first family's Christmas break in Hawaii, bringing that trip to nearly \$5 million. The Obama's are expected to return to Hawaii this Christmas.

The expenses cover items such as security, flights and hotel rooms for staff and U.S. Secret Service. They do not include the price of prepositioning ships and aircraft in the area or much of the communications costs.

Judicial Watch announced today that it obtained records from the U.S. Secret Service revealing that its travel expenses for the First Family's 2015 Hawaiian vacation cost taxpayers \$1.2 million, which bring the total cost of the vacation trip to at least \$4.8 million.

This was the Obamas' eighth Hawaiian family vacation. The trip has become an annual event for the Obamas. To date, Obama's and his family's travel expenses total at least \$85,029,819.

The records obtained by Judicial Watch for Obama's Secret Service travel to Hawaii reveal the following expenses totaling \$1,234,316.67:

- Hotel and lodging costs totaled \$1,000,458.63.
- The Secret Service spent \$165,893.88 on car rentals.
- Air and rail expenses totaled \$67,964.16.
- Although the vacation officially lasted from December 18, 2015, to January 3, 2016, the Secret Service rented several Kailua homes for 19 nights, starting from December 16. The total for the rentals, located near the Marine Corps base at Kaneohe Bay was \$245,993.12.

According to bills obtained by Judicial Watch through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Secret Service also paid for rooms at the Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki and Golf Club.

The Secret Service also reserved rooms at the Moana Surfrider resort on Waikiki Beach, and the Ala Moana Hotel, which cost a total of \$40,249.48 and \$671,895.99, respectively.

The Secret Service rented cars from Avis, Alamo, and Hertz—103 cars for the two-week vacation, totaling \$165,893.88 in taxpayer money.



An article by Ben Adler titled “Want to Discredit Donald Trump? Show His Base He’s Part of the Elite” was posted at theguardian.com on Dec. 7, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

Democrats lost to Donald Trump because they were unable to capitalize sufficiently on his political weaknesses—lying, bigotry, bankruptcies, allegations of serial sexual assault—that would normally be considered disqualifying.

If they are to limit the damage Trump wreaks on the country and beat him in four years, they need a new strategy. Fortunately for them, he is already handing them one by behaving as a corrupt kleptocrat.

Like Karl Rove’s fiendishly brilliant decision to attack John Kerry’s heroic war service during the 2004 campaign, Democrats should go after their opponent’s strength. He won the crucial Rust Belt states by being perceived as an outsider, an agent of change and a friend of blue-collar white people between the coasts.

Democrats must expose Trump for what he really is: a self-dealing political profiteer and a tool of the business and political elite.

Trump is making that job easy by nominating generic establishment Republicans and Wall Street insiders to fill his White House and using his meetings with foreign dignitaries to pressure them for favorable treatment of his businesses.

If Democrats are to gain anything from Trump’s abandonment of his campaign promises to oust the establishment and clean up the capital, they need to develop and repeat a negative narrative about Trump.

Since winning the presidency, Trump has asked British politician Nigel Farage to help stop a wind farm from going up near his Scottish golf course and, allegedly, asked Argentina’s president, Mauricio Macri, for swifter building permit approval for an office building. (Trump and Macri denied that Trump mentioned his project, but three days after their conversation, Trump’s building got its permits.) Trump supports building the Dakota Access pipeline—and he owns stock in the project’s parent company.

He may have promised to “drain the swamp” in Washington, but he is filling his administration with typical swamp creatures.

■ Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus was tapped for chief of staff.

■ Trump has nominated or is considering such other longtime GOP power brokers as Senator Jeff Sessions for attorney general, and Mitt Romney or Rudy Giuliani for secretary of state. The latter two are veterans of the same corporate speaking circuit that Trump heaped abuse on Hillary Clinton for traveling.

Romney ran a private equity fund that profited from laying off workers across the heartland. Giuliani also works at a firm that lobbies Congress on behalf of corporations and he has his own bundle of conflicts of interest, since he has been on the payroll of several foreign governments.

One Beltway veteran who has turned down Trump's invitation to audition for cabinet jobs is his informal advisor Newt Gingrich. The former House speaker has made millions consulting for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and working as a corporate influence peddler. Now, he is cashing in on his relationship with the president-elect by jacking up his speaking fee.

And Trump's national security team is filling up with generals—also known as longtime government bureaucrats.

■ Among them are NSA director Michael S Rogers, whom Trump is considering for director of national intelligence or other high-level posts, despite his current superiors recommending that he be fired for poor performance.

■ Trump nominated retired Marine Gen James N Mattis for secretary of defense and retired Lt Gen Michael T Flynn for national security advisor.

■ Gen David Petraeus, who pled guilty to sharing classified information with his mistress and would need permission from his probation officer to travel out of the country, is being considered for Secretary of State. Anyone who thought Trump would overthrow the hawkish national security establishment will be disappointed.

The economic team is also a band of insiders. The Washington Post reports that "the millionaires and billionaires of Trump's White House . . . will be the wealthiest administration in modern American history."

■ Treasury secretary nominee Steven Mnuchin is a former Goldman Sachs partner and hedge fund manager.

■ For commerce secretary and deputy commerce secretary, respectively, Trump tapped billionaire investor Wilbur Ross and Todd Ricketts, a former securities trader from a super-wealthy Republican donor family.

■ Perhaps no one better embodies Trump coopting the permanent governing class than his future Transportation Secretary, Elaine Chao. She is a veteran of three past GOP administrations, the Heritage Foundation and Citicorp. She's also married to Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell.

Mainstream Democrats have mostly failed to wrap all this into a thematic critique. Take Sen Cory Booker, a rising star in the party who is frequently discussed as a future presidential candidate. He has spoken up only about the Trump appointees, such as Bannon and Sessions, who are openly racist.

The same goes for Senate minority whip Dick Durbin, who has criticized Bannon and Sessions but not gone after other cabinet nominees other than to say the Senate will closely inspect them.

Pointing out Trump's insider status may be the only way to show the public that he isn't who he claims to be. They should say, "This is just another instance of the corrupt crony capitalism typical of the Trump administration."

So far it's mostly just liberal pundits and gadflies like Bernie Sanders pointing out Trump's corruption, when it should be leading national Democrats.

This message needs the megaphone and official imprimatur of elected officials who go on Meet the Press. And it needs a party disciplined in hammering points home as the GOP did its attacks on Clinton over Benghazi and her email server.

Remarkably enough, the first major political figure to take on Trump's economic policy hypocrisy is one his earliest supporters, Sarah Palin.

In an op-ed Friday [Dec. 4], Palin accurately denounced the Trump's Carrier inducement as "corporate welfare" and "special interest crony capitalism." Palin is an intuitively shrewd manipulator of conservative populism and Middle American resentment. Her adopting this meme demonstrates that its appeal will reach beyond the Democratic base.

That Democrats have allowed Palin to beat them to the anti-Trump punch shows they are doing their jobs terribly, if at all. If they want to beat Trump, they had better start hitting him where it will hurt.



An article by Ed Straker titled "Who Has a Bigger Conflict of Interest: Donald Trump or the *New York Times*?" was posted at americanthinker.com on Dec. 2, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

I couldn't help but notice that nearly every day, the New York Times and other media organs are running attack pieces about Donald Trump's soon to be conflicts of interest because of his real estate holdings. I find it astonishing that the media have only now become focused on potential conflicts of interest, since for years they had virtually nothing to say about Hillary Clinton, who as secretary of state also was affiliated with a "non-profit foundation" that received donations from foreign countries she interacted with in an official capacity.

So I commend the Times for suddenly being concerned about ethics at the precise moment a Republican is elected president. It very much reminds me of a vampire suddenly realizing it's night outside for the first time in eight years. But I have a more immediate concern. What about the conflict of interest at The New York Times? Nearly 20,000,000 shares are held by Carlos Slim, the Mexican "megarich oligarch."

How can the Times fairly report on issues of sanctuary cities, or illegal immigration, or trade, or bilingual education, when its largest shareholder is a Mexican citizen?

Even worse, Carlos Slim is actually Lebanese in origin, from a country ruled by the radical Islamic group Hezb'allah in alliance with Maronite Christians (Slim is a Maronite Christian). That raises a whole host of other issues. How can the Times report honestly on the Middle East, on the war on Islamic terrorism, on events in Israel, Syria, Iraq, and related topics, when a Middle Easterner is their largest shareholder? How are we to know that, by virtue of his large ownership stake, he isn't slanting their coverage?

The only solution, I think, is for the Times to buy back Carlos Slim's shares. They probably don't have the money to do it, but since I'm sure they wouldn't be satisfied with anything less than a total liquidation of Trump's real estate holdings, they should conform to the same standard, don't you think?



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "The Messy Truth About Race-Baiting Radical Demagogue Van Jones" was posted at michellemalkin.com on Dec. 6, 2016. Following is the article.

They never learn.

The grand journalism pooh-bahs at CNN were humiliated this election cycle when WikiLeaks revealed that former CNN contributor and interim DNC chair Donna Brazile had shared a question with the Hillary Clinton campaign in advance of a March Democratic primary town hall debate.

According to CNN, "activist anchor" Roland Martin and his production team at CNN's debate partner and identity politics network TV One were responsible for the leak.

CNN host Jake Tapper called the episode "very, very troubling" and condemned the breach: "Journalistically, it's horrifying," he told WMAL radio.

CNN president Jeff Zucker declared after an internal investigation that the network "would not partner ever again" with TV One.

But instead of weeding out left-wing partisans masquerading as mainstream political analysts from their lineup, CNN is doubling down. This week, the network debuted a news special called "The Messy Truth" hosted by "political commentator" Van Jones.

Yeah, that guy.

Before he was pontificating on CNN airwaves, he was a top environmental official of the Obama administration. The special advisor for green jobs at the White House Council on Environmental Quality held a special place in Obama

senior advisor Valerie Jarrett's heart. The Chicago power broker took full credit at a fringe Daily Kos blogger conference for recruiting him and closely following his career.

"You guys know Van Jones?" she asked to roaring applause.

"Ooh. Van Jones, all right!" she cooed. "So, Van Jones. We were so delighted to be able to recruit him into the White House. We were watching him, uh, really, he's not that old, for as long as he's been active out in Oakland. And all the creative ideas he has. And so now, we have captured that. And we have all that energy in the White House."

One of Jones's more "creative ideas" was signing a petition in 2004 calling for congressional hearings and an investigation by the New York attorney general into "evidence that suggests high-level government officials may have deliberately allowed the September 11th attacks to occur."

That's right. Valerie Jarrett took credit for recruiting a 9/11 truther who endorsed a petition peddling the crackpot theory that President George W. Bush "may indeed have deliberately allowed 9/11 to happen, perhaps as a pretext for war."

Under fire, Jones disavowed the statement he had attached his name to—and decried those who dared to hold him responsible for his "creative ideas." It was conservative bloggers, not "real journalists," who exposed Jones's long record of radicalism to the public—leading to his resignation in September 2009.

Van Jones did not just accidentally slip through the cracks of the Obama vetters. They knew what he espoused before they installed him. So did his bosses at CNN who hired him in 2013.

It wasn't his expertise in political science, political history, electoral trends or journalism that got him the job. It was his social justice resume. He rose to public prominence as a race-baiting agitator at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, funded by the George Soros-supported Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the liberal Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

He became a public fixture in the Bay Area after crusading to free convicted cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal for a Marxist organization and lambasting moderate civil rights leaders for objecting to politicizing the classrooms.

In 2011, the late great Andrew Breitbart pulled no punches in describing Jones as a "commie punk" and a "cop killer-supporting, racist, demagogic freak." Jones had employed classic, radical Saul Alinsky-inspired campaign tactics to have Breitbart banned from a website he helped create—the left-wing Huffington Post—simply for writing articles providing alternative views of the tea party and for reporting on the Obama administration's transparency-stifling measures.

Bending to the censorious mob, HuffPo assailed Breitbart's "ad hominem" attack on Jones, which violated "the tenets of debate and civil discourse we have strived for since the day we launched."

The progressives had nothing to say, of course, about Van Jones's own ad hominem attacks when he obscenely and publicly assailed Republicans as "a—holes"—and when he financed, produced and participated in cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal's rap album, which railed against "imperialist" America and white "mother—s" as the "true terrorists."

Now, Jones—who most recently race-baited Donald Trump supporters by blaming them for a "whitelash"—has reinvented himself as a roving correspondent traveling the nation to analyze the election results and to lecture others to "be passionate. But be compassionate, too" with fellow citizens who hold different political viewpoints.

This is CNN: Enabling a lifelong, extremist demagogue—who has actively stifled and smeared conservatives, law enforcement and honorable public servants—to pose as a reasonable news personality Van-splainin' the world.

This goes beyond the sin of "fake news." It's gross media malpractice of the highest order.



Looking back to October, here is an article by Bradford Richardson titled "Liberal Professors Outnumber Conservative Nearly 12 to 1, Study Finds" that was posted at washingtontimes.com on Oct. 6, 2016.

A new study confirms what even the most casual observer of higher education has long known—that conservative professors are vastly outnumbered by liberal ones—but it also shows that the problem is getting worse.

Published in *Econ Journal Watch* last month, the study looks at faculty voter registration at 40 leading universities and finds that, out of 7,243 professors, Democrats outnumber Republicans 3,623 to 314, or by a ratio of 11 1/2 to 1.

The study comes after a tumultuous few years at American colleges and universities, marked by campus race protests, the disinvitation of conservative speakers and the popularization of phrases such as "trigger warning" and "safe space."

Out of five departments analyzed by the authors, the field friendliest to conservative scholars is economics, where there are only 4.5 liberal professors for every conservative.

Conversely, history is by far the least conservative-friendly department, where liberals outnumber conservatives by a 33 1/2-to-1 ratio.

This stands in stark contrast to a 1968 study that put the Democrat-to-Republican contrast in history departments at 2.7 to 1, the study points out. Even reports from as recent as 2004 have estimated liberals outnumber conservatives in the field by a ratio between 9 to 1 and 15 to 1.

The authors of the analysis—Brooklyn College business professor Mitchell Langbert, private sector economist Anthony J. Quain and George Mason University economist Daniel B. Klein—speculate that the rapidly growing disparity is due in part to the rise of academic subcategories, such as the histories of gender, race and class, where a liberal orientation is the foundation for subsequent research.

Kim R. Holmes, a distinguished fellow at The Heritage Foundation, said the ascendance of multiculturalism in the humanities makes it difficult for conservatives to find work teaching.

“If you’re going to have a Gender Studies Department, or something like that, the progressive assumptions are built into the very idea of the department, so you’re not going to hire any conservative professors,” said Mr. Holmes, who is the author of “The Closing of the Liberal Mind.” “Because of this, the imbalance has proliferated.”

The disparity is highest at the most prestigious universities, the study finds. Pennsylvania State University, for instance, has a comparatively balanced faculty ratio of 6 to 1, while Ohio State University enjoys even closer ideological parity at 3.2 to 1. But a pair of Ivy League universities, Columbia and Princeton, both weigh in at 30 to 1.

The university with the most even ratio examined in the report is Pepperdine University, which has a reputation for being a conservative school but still has 1.2 Democrats for every Republican on the faculty.

David L. Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, downplayed the report’s findings.

“Well, I don’t know that there’s a whole lot of news here,” Mr. Warren said. “Since the ‘60s, and especially given political circumstances—the war, Watergate and Nixon’s circumstances—it’s pretty evident that college faculty and students became more Democratic.”

While he said he would prefer more intellectually diverse faculties at the schools examined in the report, Mr. Warren said they do not represent the higher education landscape as a whole. He said small, faith-based colleges are just as likely to create campus echo chambers as their Ivy League counterparts.

“Both sides of the political spectrum have created departments that are hostile and antithetical to the other political view,” Mr. Warren said. “I think it’s often missed that that happens at a number of campuses that are not listed here, which, by the way, is where the vast majority of students are. The students listed in this group are probably less than 5 percent of all the students in the country.”

The study also breaks down the ratio of Democratic-to-Republican faculty by age.

While there are 10 Democrats for every Republican among professors over the age of 65, the ratio balloons to 22.7 to 1 among scholars under the age of 36, indicating the ideological disparity could continue to grow as more senior professors are pushed out and replaced by a new generation of scholars.

Mr. Warren also minimized this aspect of the report, saying liberals tend to become more conservative as they grow older. Furthermore, he said fields not examined in this report, including business, engineering and the natural sciences, tend to skew more conservative than the humanities and social sciences.

But Mr. Holmes said increasing intellectual homogeneity in academia does not bode well for the health of the American republic, pointing to the Founders' belief in the necessity of a virtuous and well-educated citizenry.

"If the culture at large neither cares about morality anymore and, on top of that, the education is being cheapened, it's no longer about trying to teach people to think critically but about trying to indoctrinate them to a certain point of view," Mr. Holmes said. "The American public over time is going to decline in the ability to be self-governing, and, ultimately, that's a threat to democracy."



An article by Leah Jessen titled "Colleges Look to Create Sanctuary Campuses for Illegal Immigrant Students" was posted at dailysignal.com on Nov. 22, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

Presidents from at least two colleges have pledged to make their campuses safe havens for illegal immigrant students.

"We steadfastly support all members of our community regardless of their immigration status," John Kroger, president of Reed College in Portland, Oregon, said last week in an announcement that his college will be a sanctuary campus.

Students and professors at other schools around the nation, from Yale University and Harvard University to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, have pushed for their college to become a "sanctuary" for illegal immigrant students.

"My mom brought me to the United States at a very young age," an illegal immigrant student at Drake told KCCI 8 News. "We really didn't have the resources to apply for any sort of visa to be able to come to the United States legally."

While the "sanctuary college" definition may differ from college to college, policy demands include items such as not assisting Immigration and Customs Enforcement in investigations on the immigration status of students and helping all students financially, including those in the country illegally.

"Across the country, many are calling for their universities to become sanctuary campuses," Michael Roth, president of Wesleyan University in Connecticut, wrote on Nov. 20, declaring Wesleyan a sanctuary campus.

"The model is the 'sanctuary city,' like Austin, New York City, Chicago, and dozens of other municipalities, which have declared their intention not to cooperate with federal officials seeking to deport residents simply because they lack appropriate immigration documentation."

Around the nation, there are around 300 jurisdictions at the state, county, and city level that do not cooperate with government immigration enforcement policies, according to the Center for Immigration Studies.

Over 100 colleges had walkouts last week in protest of illegal immigrant deportation policies for students, the New York Post reported.

"A handful of students on some campuses are demanding some sort of campus-wide policy that shields illegal aliens from law enforcement, but mostly it's just a protest that is unlikely to go anywhere," Jon Feere, a legal policy analyst at the Center for Immigration Studies, told The Daily Signal.

Feere added: "We'll have to see how this unfolds, but these campuses in many ways are already involved in a relationship with the federal government when it comes to immigration and students, particularly in the case of foreign students. There's an information sharing process that does take place. I think it will be very difficult for these campuses to shield individuals who are in violation of the law from federal authorities should the government choose to deport somebody."

Feere says these protests and sanctuary campuses are more of a "publicity stunt."

"I suspect that if we were to get to a point where law enforcement needed to deport an individual on the campus, whether it's a student or an employee, that the campuses would largely comply," Feere said.

"For example, even the president of Reed College in his letter acknowledges that he will cooperate with federal law enforcement when there is a direct court order present," Feere added.

The campus protests have targeted President-elect Donald Trump's immigration policies. Trump said he would end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, authorized by President Barack Obama in 2012.

"Undocumented students are currently protected from deportation by an executive order signed by President Obama, which also allows them to work and obtain driver's licenses," Fortune reported.

"More than 90 college and university presidents have signed a statement calling for the continuation and expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program," according to Inside Higher Ed. The program is available for illegal immigrants that arrived in the United States before they turned 16 years old.

In the Reed College president's declaration that the school would be a sanctuary campus, he said the college will "provide institutional financial aid to make up for the federal aid that these students are unable to apply for, such as Pell Grants."

Students at private as well as public schools, including University of Texas-Austin and University of Wisconsin-Madison, have participated in demanding sanctuary status for their campus, according to Fusion.

"If those are public colleges that are providing in-state tuition to illegal aliens without providing the same benefits to out-of-state citizen students, not only

are they violating federal immigration law, but they are penalizing Americans for being citizens and following the law,” Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, told The Daily Signal. “The schools are rewarding those whose first act in coming to America is to break our laws.”

Some colleges have charged students fees to fund a scholarship program for illegal immigrants, created a tuition loan assistance program for students in the country illegally, and offered in-state tuition to illegal immigrants.

“These public colleges—as well as private college engaging in the same ‘sanctuary’ behavior—are showing a fundamental contempt for the rule of law, which is the heart of our democracy and what has long distinguished us from the dangerous and lawless places that exist around the world,” von Spakovsky said.



An article by Stephen Gutowski titled “More Guns Have Been Sold in 2016 Than Any Year in History” was posted at freebeacon.com on Dec. 1, 2016. Following are excerpts of the article.

More gun-related FBI background checks were done in 2016 than in any other year in history after November set yet another record for gun sales in the United States.

So far this year, the FBI has processed 24,767,514 checks through its National Instant Criminal Background Check System, known as NICS, which puts 2016 more than 160,000 checks above the yearly record set in 2015.

The record comes after November 2016 set its own monthly record with 2,561,281 checks, nearly 320,000 more than the previous record set last November. This gun sales spike has lasted for over a year and resulted in monthly records for 19 straight months.

November’s record comes as the firearms industry is beginning its seasonal upswing with millions of Americans purchasing firearms in the lead up to the holiday season. That upswing is likely to add to 2016’s record because December has traditionally seen the highest number of NICS checks for the year.

“Reports of the industry’s demise were greatly exaggerated by the liberal anti-gun media,” Larry Keane, the National Shooting Sports Foundation’s senior vice president, said of the new record.

Gun rights activists have long attributed the string of record setting months to advocacy by leading Democrats, including Hillary Clinton and President Obama, for new gun control measures. In the wake of Hillary Clinton’s defeat at the polls by Donald Trump, who most view as pro-gun, many believed gun sales would begin to recede.

"I'm not surprised by this being a huge year for gun sales because of Obama's disdain for gun rights and threats of more gun control over the years," Philip Van Cleave, president of the Virginia Citizens Defense League, said. "But, part of that sales record is also the threat of terrorism, actual acts of terrorism on American soil, rising racial violence, riots and violence because of political hatred, and even attacks on police.

"Those issues have not yet changed because Trump has been elected and may be mitigated by Trump, but probably not totally eliminated."



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."