

Eye on the World

Aug. 26, 2017

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 August 26, 2017.

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).



An article by Sarah Knapton titled "3,700-Year-Old Babylonian Tablet Rewrites the History of Maths—and Shows the Greeks Did Not Develop Trigonometry" was posted at telegraph.co.uk on Aug. 24, 2017. Following is the article.

A 3,700-year-old clay tablet has proven that the Babylonians developed trigonometry 1,500 years before the Greeks and were using a sophisticated method of mathematics which could change how we calculate today.

The tablet, known as Plimpton 332, was discovered in the early 1900s in Southern Iraq by the American archaeologist and diplomat Edgar Banks, who was the inspiration for Indiana Jones.

The true meaning of the tablet has eluded experts until now but new research by the University of New South Wales, Australia, has shown it is the world's oldest and most accurate trigonometric table, which was probably used by ancient architects to construct temples, palaces and canals.

However unlike today's trigonometry, Babylonian mathematics used a base 60, or sexagesimal system, rather than the 10 which is used today. Because 60 is far easier to divide by three, experts studying the tablet, found that the calculations are far more accurate.

"Our research reveals that Plimpton 322 describes the shapes of right-angle triangles using a novel kind of trigonometry based on ratios, not angles and

circles,” said Dr Daniel Mansfield of the School of Mathematics and Statistics in the UNSW Faculty of Science.

“It is a fascinating mathematical work that demonstrates undoubted genius. The tablet not only contains the world’s oldest trigonometric table; it is also the only completely accurate trigonometric table, because of the very different Babylonian approach to arithmetic and geometry.

“This means it has great relevance for our modern world. Babylonian mathematics may have been out of fashion for more than 3000 years, but it has possible practical applications in surveying, computer graphics and education.

“This is a rare example of the ancient world teaching us something new.”

The Greek astronomer Hipparchus, who lived around 120BC, has long been regarded as the father of trigonometry, with his ‘table of chords’ on a circle considered the oldest trigonometric table.

A trigonometric table allows a user to determine two unknown ratios of a right-angled triangle using just one known ratio. But the tablet is far older than Hipparchus, demonstrating that the Babylonians were already well advanced in complex mathematics far earlier.

The tablet, which is thought to have come from the ancient Sumerian city of Larsa, has been dated to between 1822 and 1762 BC. It is now in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University in New York.

“Plimpton 322 predates Hipparchus by more than 1000 years,” says Dr Wildberger.

“It opens up new possibilities not just for modern mathematics research, but also for mathematics education. With Plimpton 322 we see a simpler, more accurate trigonometry that has clear advantages over our own.

“A treasure-trove of Babylonian tablets exists, but only a fraction of them have been studied yet. The mathematical world is only waking up to the fact that this ancient but very sophisticated mathematical culture has much to teach us.”

The 15 rows on the tablet describe a sequence of 15 right-angle triangles, which are steadily decreasing in inclination.

The left-hand edge of the tablet is broken but the researchers believe there were originally six columns and that the tablet was meant to be completed with 38 rows.

“Plimpton 322 was a powerful tool that could have been used for surveying fields or making architectural calculations to build palaces, temples or step pyramids,” added Dr Mansfield.

The new study is published in *Historia Mathematica*, the official journal of the International Commission on the History of Mathematics.



An article titled "Turkey's Erdogan Says German Leaders Are Enemies" was posted at bbc.com on Aug. 18, 2017. Following is the article.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has called Germany's ruling politicians "enemies of Turkey" who deserve to be rejected by German-Turkish voters.

Germany will hold a general election on 24 September, and about one million ethnic Turks living in Germany can vote. A majority of them backed Mr Erdogan in an April referendum.

"The Christian Democrats [CDU], SPD [Social Democrats], the Green Party are all enemies of Turkey," he said.

German ministers protested angrily.

Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said Mr Erdogan's comments were an "unprecedented" act of interference in Germany's sovereignty.

Mr Erdogan has lashed out at Germany before, yet the two countries are major trade partners and allies in Nato.

He was furious that the German government refused to let some of his allies campaign for him in Germany before the April vote, which paved the way for him to get sweeping new executive powers. That refusal, he said, was "Nazi-style" behaviour.

Tensions increased after the abortive coup attempt against Mr Erdogan in July 2016, during which at least 240 people died.

President Erdogan blamed the network of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen over the coup plot, and accused Germany of protecting Gulenists. The cleric has denied any role in the plot.

Mr Erdogan conveyed his message to German Turks via reporters in Istanbul after Friday prayers.

"Give necessary support to political parties that do not engage in enmity against Turkey.

"It is not important whether they are the first or the second party. In a way this is a struggle of honour for all my citizens living in Germany," he said, implying that voters should back far-right or far-left parties.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's centre-right CDU has been governing in coalition with the Mr Gabriel's centre-left SPD. Opinion polls suggest the CDU has a strong lead over the SPD.

The Turkish diaspora in Germany is estimated to number about three million people. "I think they will be giving the necessary lesson to those parties at the ballot box," Mr Erdogan said.

More than 50,000 people have been arrested in Turkey since the coup plot, including hundreds of journalists, opposition politicians, academics and activists.

Mr Erdogan's ruling AK Party has also purged the armed forces, judiciary, police and education sector, sacking more than 140,000 people.



An article by Thomas Lifson titled "Chief Rabbi in Barcelona Advises Jews to Flee" was posted at americanthinker.com on Aug. 21, 2017. Following is the article.

Speaking to the *JTA news agency*, Rabbi Meir Bar-Hen, the chief rabbi of Barcelona, is giving up on Europe as a safe home for Jews.

■ "Jews are not here permanently," he said of the city and region. "I tell my congregants: Don't think we're here for good. And I encourage them to buy property in Israel. This place is lost. Don't repeat the mistake of Algerian Jews, of Venezuelan Jews. Better [get out] early than late."

With North Africans, mostly Muslims, flooding into Spain daily, bringing with them deep, theologically based hatred of Jews, the situation for Jews there can only get worse.

■ Part of the problem exposed by the attacks, Bar-Hen said, is the presence of a large Muslim community with "radical fringes." Once these people are "living among you," he said of terrorists and their supporters, "it's very difficult to get rid of them. They only get stronger." He also said this applied to Europe as a whole.

■ "Europe is lost," he said.

Jews, of course, are only the canary in the coal mine for what is left of Christian Europe. A Spanish newspaper has reported that the Barcelona terror cell was planning to blow up Barcelona's famous Sagrada Familia cathedral.



A Reuters article by Philip Pullella titled "Clashes in Rome As Police Evict Refugee Squatters From Square" was posted at reuters.com on Aug. 24, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Police using water cannon and batons clashed on Thursday with refugees who had occupied a small Rome square in defiance of an order to leave a building where they had been squatting.

The clashes were the latest example of tensions in Italy as the country deals with an influx of migrants. They quickly became fodder for political debate, particularly on the police handling of the incident.

Refugees were screaming and trying to hit police, who were dressed in riot gear, with sticks.

The square, just one block from Rome's main train station, was strewn with mattresses, overturned rubbish bins and broken plastic chairs.

Some 100 refugees had occupied Piazza Indipendenza since Saturday, when most of about 800 squatters were evicted from an adjacent office building they had occupied for about five years.

Hung on the building was a sheet with writing reading "We are refugees, not terrorists" in Italian.

A small fire burned on the pavement and a sheet hanging from a first-floor window was set alight by squatters inside.

Most of the squatters were Eritreans who had been granted asylum. Police said they had refused to accept lodging offered by the city.

In a statement, the police said the refugees had gas canisters, some of which they had opened, and officers had been hit by rocks, bottles and pepper spray. Two people were arrested and Doctors Without Borders said in a statement that its medics had given first aid to 13 refugees, including one for a broken bone.

A refugee protests in the street after being removed by police officers from a small square that had been occupied by refugee squatters, in central Rome, Italy August 24, 2017.

Human Rights Watch and members of some leftist political parties criticized the police handling of the situation, saying the use of such force was disproportionate.

Various Roman Catholic groups that help immigrants also criticized police conduct.

But the Italian police union COISIP said officers were forced to use water cannon because of the "risk of explosions caused by flammable liquids".

Squatters had put cooking gas tanks on the railing of a first-floor balcony, apparently ready to be opened to be used as makeshift flamethrowers, or dropped onto the square, Reuters photographers said on Wednesday.

Matteo Salvini, head of the right-wing, anti-immigrant Northern League, Tweeted his unequivocal support of police, saying "Go boys: Evictions, order, cleaning up and EXPULSIONS! Italians are with you."

More than 600,000 boat migrants have arrived in Italy from North Africa since 2014. Some 200,000 asylum seekers now stay in state-run shelters.



An article titled "UN Racism Committee Issues 'Warning' Over US Tensions" was posted at yahoo.com on Aug. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

A UN committee tasked with combatting racism has issued a formal “early warning” over conditions in the United States, a rare move often used to signal the potential of a looming civil conflict.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said it had invoked its “early warning and urgent action procedure” because of the proliferation of racist demonstrations in the US.

It specifically noted the unrest in Charlottesville, Virginia, in which a woman was killed after an avowed white supremacist ploughed his car into a group of anti-racism counterprotestors.

The racism committee, part of the UN human rights office, can issue a formal early warning to help prevent “existing problems from escalating into conflict” or to “prevent a resumption of conflict where it has previously occurred”, according to the rights office website.

President Donald Trump has been widely criticised for his response to the Charlottesville clashes, after he said “both sides” were to blame for the violence.

The UN committee urged Washington, “as well as high-level politicians and public officials, to unequivocally and unconditionally reject and condemn racist hate speech,” without mentioning Trump by name.

“We are alarmed by the racist demonstrations, with overtly racist slogans, chants and salutes by white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan, promoting white supremacy and inciting racial discrimination and hatred,” committee head Anastasia Crickley said in a statement.

The committee monitors compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which the US ratified in 1994.

The US warning marks the seventh such alert issued in the past decade.

They mainly concern countries gripped by ethnic and religious strife, including Burundi, Nigeria, Iraq and Ivory Coast.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled “Charlottesville Donnybrook” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Aug. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

Charlottesville, Virginia, a city named after Britain’s first black queen, was the scene of a bloody riot Saturday, Aug. 12. The fray resulted in the death of one woman, who was mowed down by a car; plus, there were many other people injured.

Have politicians and the news media told the correct and complete story about what happened, or have Americans been deliberately misled? Let’s look at it.

One does not have to accept the racist and nationalist vision of the Unite the Right organization to recognize and respect its First Amendment rights.

Moreover, the group obtained a city permit to hold a peaceful rally to protest the lawful removal of the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from Emancipation Park, formerly known as Lee Park.

It was the leftist protesters who did not have a city permit to assemble for a rally on that day. Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said: "There has got to be a movement in this country to bring people together. The hatred and rhetoric that has gone on and has intensified over the last couple months is dividing this great nation."

He denounced "the white supremacists and the Nazis." However, when asked a question about whether he would include the left-wing, pro-violence antifa in his condemnation, he ignored the question and walked out of the room.

Here's a question for you: Did the authorities of the city of Charlottesville have a duty to protect Unite the Right rally attendees?

The American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia said they had a right to rally, saying, "The First Amendment is a critical part of our democracy, and it protects vile, hateful, and ignorant speech."

Thus, the ACLU of Virginia defended the white supremacists' and neo-Nazis' right to march and rally against the removal of the statue of Lee. Both the Unite the Right organizers and the leftist counter-protesters charged that the Charlottesville police did not do their job. They just stood back and watched the melee.

This was documented in several reports. The Daily Caller article titled "Why Were The Police Held Back In Charlottesville?" reports: "Law enforcement was on hand at the dueling demonstrations on Saturday, decked out in riot gear and looking prepared for the worst. Except they weren't allowed to do their job."

According to the ACLU of Virginia, police on the scene were reported to have been ordered to "not intervene until given command to do so." That kept them from suppressing the numerous scuffles that broke out (<http://tinyurl.com/ycpnrzv7>).

I'd like to ask any policeman, Since when did the police need a command to intervene when they are witnessing people assaulting one another?

In a ProPublica article titled "Police Stood By As Mayhem Mounted in Charlottesville," the authors reported that "state police and National Guardsmen watched passively for hours as self-proclaimed Nazis engaged in street battles with counter-protesters."

ProPublica reporter A.C. Thompson, who was on the scene, reported that "the authorities turned the streets of the city over to groups of militiamen armed with assault rifles" (<http://tinyurl.com/yc9a2lk>).

Instead of owning up to his dereliction of duty—by not having ordered his police force to protect life and limb—Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer chose to demagogue the situation by blaming the rise of white nationalists on President Donald Trump.

Many politicians, racists, hustlers and tyrants have an agenda that consists mostly of making the U.S. Constitution meaningless and giving government greater control over our lives, thereby destroying personal liberty. The alt-right and white supremacists seek to achieve their goals through racist propaganda.

The leftists seek to achieve their goals by tricking Americans into believing that all they want are brotherhood and multiculturalism. If either group achieves its goals, we Americans will lose not only our liberty but also our civility. Few Americans recognize and respect the fact that multiracial societies are inherently unstable.

What we've been doing for decades, through various government policies, is stacking up combustible racial kindling awaiting a racial arsonist to set it ablaze.

There are too many historical examples of what happens to a nation when race hustlers are allowed to take over.



An article by Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson titled "Removing Confederate Monuments Won't Help Black Americans One Iota" was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 22, 2017. Following is the article.

In the wake of the Charlottesville, Virginia, tragedy, which began in part as a rally to protect a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, the left has seized the crisis to smear President Donald Trump.

The president is being unfairly accused of sympathizing with white supremacists. His supporters are being lumped in with neo-Nazis, and left-wing thugs recently shut down a "free-speech" rally in Boston.

Using the violence in Charlottesville as an excuse, leftists are also desecrating and tearing down Confederate monuments. Gutless Democratic and Republican politicians have been intimidated into removing dozens of Confederate monuments and statues across the country.

The Baltimore City Council and mayor had four Confederate monuments removed overnight under the cover of darkness. Cowards!

Antifa and Black Lives Matter protesters pulled down and destroyed a statue of a Confederate soldier in front of the Durham County Courthouse in Durham, North Carolina, which had stood since 1924.

Publicity hound and opportunist Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., announced that he plans on introducing a bill to remove Confederate statues from the U.S. Capitol building.

Not to be outdone, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called for the removal of the statues, markers and other monuments that celebrate Civil War-era figures from public grounds, describing them as "reprehensible."

Nancy Pelosi walks past the statue of Robert E. Lee and other Confederate leaders at the Capitol daily, yet she has never called for their removal. Why now? Because she wants to use it as wedge issue to anger blacks and cause them to turn out to vote for Democrats in 2018.

President Trump rightfully condemned these actions. He tweeted:

"Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments . . . You can't change history, but you can learn from it. Robert E Lee, Stonewall Jackson—who's next, Washington, Jefferson? So foolish!"

Sure enough, in a PBS interview with Charlie Rose, race hustler Al Sharpton called for the federal government to cease maintaining the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. Sharpton said, because Jefferson owned slaves, his monument shouldn't be cared for with taxpayer funds. The only problem is that Sharpton doesn't pay his taxes; he owes millions to the IRS. Shut up and pay your taxes, Al!

The left is overreaching. According to an NPR/PBS/Marist Poll, 62 percent of Americans said statues honoring leaders of the Confederacy should remain; 27 percent said they should be removed and 11 percent were unsure.

I'm heartbroken to see these historical monuments being destroyed and taken down. I grew up on a plantation in Alabama. My grandfather ran the plantation, and my family worked and lived there. I always say that I'm not African-American—I'm 100 percent American! These monuments are a reminder of how far we have come as a nation. They are a reminder that we have reconciled with the past. Erasing history is a slippery slope, and we cannot allow the left to continue doing this.

If you remove every Confederate monument in the land, it won't help black Americans one iota because blacks are not suffering due to "racism"; they are suffering because of the lack of moral character and the breakdown of the black family.

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley made an awful mistake when she agreed to remove the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina state-house grounds in 2015. The flag wasn't harming anyone. Blacks in the South have grown up with these images, and they're part of our history. We don't think twice about them. But white politicians are fearful of being labeled "racist," so they cave in to crazy leftist demands.

Democrats are taking down Confederate monuments because they want to erase and run away from their party's history.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, was a Democrat. As Joseph Farah points out in his column ("Why Democrats want you to forget about the Confederacy"), white Democrats ran the South during the Civil War, through the Jim Crow days of segregation and right up until the early 1960s. Not a single Democrat in that era ever suggested destroying statues of Confederate heroes, taking down Confederate flags or toppling monuments memorializing the Confederacy!

This battle will not be won with anger. In my recent column, “Charlottesville, I tried to warn you,” I appealed to white Americans to drop their anger so they can speak up and fight back against the left in the right way. But young whites who have not had good parents—especially good fathers—are starting to fight back with anger, and now the media and the government are focused on them. It’s a trap.

President Trump was right—the hate is on both sides. Decent Americans should fight back against the attack on our history and on our freedoms, but don’t fight back with anger or it will come back on you. The government creates and encourages many of these problems, but when you get mad and take the wrong action, they pass laws to take away your freedoms.

So speak up and fight back without hate, and you will win!



An article by Melanie Arter titled “NYC Councilman: Ben Carson Supports the Same Things That Supremacists, Neo-Nazis Support” was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 22, 2017. Following is the article.

In an interview on Fox News’ “Tucker Carlson Tonight” on Monday, NYC City Councilman Jumaane Wilson compared Housing and Urban Development Secretary Dr. Ben Carson to white supremacists and neo-Nazis, saying they support the same agendas.

“To me, the Trump administration, particularly much of the conservative agenda, we have to ask why people believe neo-Nazism, why people who believe in supremacy support those agendas, support those ideologies, support those policies, and Ben Carson is a part of those who support it, and it is a problem,” said Wilson.

Host Tucker Carlson challenged Wilson, asking, “So is Ben Carson a white supremacist too now?”

“No, I believe he and many others around Trump support the same things that supremacists and Nazis support. That is clear,” Wilson replied.

“Is that Ben Carson’s fault? Maybe he sincerely believes what he believes. Why are you trying to tar him with white supremacy?” Carlson asked.

“Oh, that’s fine, then we just have to acknowledge. As long as we’re acknowledging that the Nazis and the supremacists believe them as well because of their exclusive policies and who they’re going to exclude and who they’re going to serve,” Wilson said.

“Do you know what McCarthyism was? That was smearing people unfairly with the beliefs of those they had nothing in common with. You would say, you know . . . did you know, you’re a vegetarian. So is Adolf Hitler. Are you a Nazi? I mean that’s insane and unfair,” Carlson said.

"The policies of the right oftentimes exclude people and keep them under oppression, and we've been saying that for quite some time. That is why the Nazis and the supremacists support those views and support those policies," said Wilson.

The councilman also said the only reason that Dr. Ben Carson is HUD secretary is "because he has some melanin in his skin."

"Ben Carson was a hero of mine when I was younger. I know I speak for a lot of young black men who are disappointed to see where he is and his real ideology and policy. I wrote an op-ed that said this man actually shouldn't be the head of HUD, and I believe he was only put there because he has some melanin in his skin," said Wilson.

When asked whether he had any evidence for his assertion that Carson was only named head of HUD because he's black, Wilson said, "There, for me, seemed no other reason for a man who is clearly unqualified, had no experience in housing at all whatsoever, and when you have the words 'urban' in it, to put someone with melanin in their skin, that was reason enough for me."

"You're attacking his qualifications. You're calling him an affirmative action hire . . . Jack Kemp was HUD secretary. He had no background in housing. He was a fine Housing secretary, but he was white, so you wouldn't have attacked him the way you're attacking Ben Carson. What bothers me is you're attacking him on the basis of race," Carlson said.

"No, I would because Ben Carson has also said that he doesn't agree with everything that HUD is actually supposed to do, and so with that and his background, he is wholly unqualified to be HUD and Urban Development," Wilson said.

"So you have to agree with everything an agency does before you run it?" Carlson asked.

"No, he doesn't agree with anything that HUD is supposed to do . . ." Wilson said.

"Is there anything specific that you disagree with him on in housing policy?" Carlson asked.

"Absolutely. One, he said poverty is a choice. Two, he's trying to roll back the Fair Housing programs that were put underneath the previous administration. Just recently, he knocked down 40 buildings, public housing buildings in Illinois and put 400 people into homelessness. He has talked about the policies of HUD specifically and said he doesn't agree with them. He's had no experience in this field," Wilson said. "Being put where the word 'urban' is seems to me very clear why."



An article by Craig Bannister titled "Monument Vandels Broaden Attacks Beyond Confederacy to Include Holocaust, Saint, Lincoln" was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

Confederate monuments aren't the only ones being vandalized since the violent rally in Charlottesville, Va., earlier this month.

Memorials of the Holocaust, President Abraham Lincoln, Spanish explorer Christopher Columbus—and even a Catholic saint who helped build Spanish missions in California in the 1700s—have also been attacked.

The Daily Signal has compiled a list of eight of the attacks on monuments, and one bomb plot thwarted, since the Charlottesville incident:

- Christopher Columbus monument smashed in Baltimore (filmed, narrated and posted on YouTube).
- Durham statue to the 'Boys Who Wore Gray' toppled
- Atlanta 'Peace' monument attacked and damaged
- Lincoln Memorial spray painted with vulgar slur against "Law."
- Abraham Lincoln bust vandalized twice in Chicago
- Father Junipero Serra (a Catholic saint) covered in Red Paint
- Glass of Boston Holocaust Memorial shattered
- Robert E. Lee statue attacked, removed at Duke University
- Man tries to bomb Confederate monument in Houston (thwarted by authorities).



An article by Craig Bannister titled "Bozell: 'Chuck Todd and MSNBC are Providing a Platform for Radical Leftists Who Use Violence' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Aug. 17, 2017. Following is the article.

Media Research Center (MRC) President Brent Bozell issued the following statement Thursday [Aug. 17] in response to a Wednesday evening interview between MTP Daily host Chuck Todd and Mark Bray, a prominent voice in the radical left-wing Antifa movement.

The Antifa supporter went unchallenged as he promoted his violent extremist beliefs to MSNBC viewers, saying:

- "The main perspective of Antifa is essentially that rather than simply waiting for the threat to materialize, you stop it from the beginning. You say no platform for fascism and that's what we're seeing with the attempts in Charlottesville and elsewhere."

When Chuck Todd, specifically asked: "I'm curious, first of all, are you an advocate of this sort of confrontation?," Bray replied: "Yes, I am. Yes."

Bozell blasted Todd and MSNBC for giving voice to violent, radical leftists:

- “Chuck Todd and MSNBC are providing a platform for radical leftists who use violence as a means to intimidate political opponents and suppress free speech.”
- “Allowing Antifa supporters to promote violence unchallenged is not only repugnant, but irresponsible.”
- “MSNBC and their sponsors must be held accountable for providing a platform for any violence and destruction perpetrated by these hateful groups.”



An editorial by Dennis Prager titled “How the Mainstream Media Operate” was posted at townhall.com on Aug. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

“Our leading media” are characterized by “indefensibly corrupt manipulations of language repeated incessantly.”

Patrick Lawrence in *The Nation*, Aug. 9, 2017, on the media’s reporting of the alleged collusion between Donald Trump’s campaign and Russia

To understand America’s crises today, one must first understand what has happened to two institutions: the university and the news media. They do not regard their mission as educating and informing but indoctrinating.

In this column, I will focus on the media. I will dissect one issue that I know extremely well: the national and local coverage of the invitation extended to me to guest-conduct the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. The concert took place last week.

I am well aware that this event is far less significant than many other issues. But every aspect of the reporting of this issue applies to virtually every issue the media cover. Therefore, understanding how *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times* and NPR covered my story leads to an almost-perfect understanding of how the media cover every story where the left has a vested interest.

When it comes to straight news stories—say, an earthquake in Central America—the news media often do their job responsibly. But when a story has a left-wing interest, the media abandon straight news reporting and take on the role of advocates.

As I explained in detail in a previous column, the board of directors of the Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, Guido Lamell, invited me to guest-conduct a Haydn symphony at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. I have conducted regional orchestras in Southern California over the last 20 years.

Sometime thereafter, four members of the orchestra published a letter asking their fellow musicians not to perform, claiming, “Dennis Prager is a right-

wing radio host who promotes horribly bigoted positions.” They were joined by former Santa Monica Mayor Kevin McKeown, who announced, “I personally will most certainly not be attending a concert featuring a bigoted hate-monger,” among others.

Then, *The New York Times* decided to write a piece on the controversy.

The first question is why? Why would the Times write about a controversy begun by a few members of a community orchestra in California?

I am quite certain that one reason was to protect the left. My original column on the issue, titled “Can a Conservative Conduct an Orchestra?” went viral. And it made the left look bad. Not only was the left trying to prevent conservatives from speaking; it was now trying to prevent a conservative from not speaking—from just making music.

Therefore, it was necessary to show that the left in Santa Monica had legitimate reasons to try to prevent me from conducting. And the only way to do that was to reaffirm that I am a hater and a bigot.

The *Times* writer wasted no time in portraying me that way. He wrote, “a number of them are refusing to play the fund-raiser, saying that allowing the orchestra to be conducted by Mr. Prager, who has suggested that same-sex marriage would lead to polygamy and incest, among other contentious statements, would be tantamount to endorsing and normalizing bigotry.”

■ Lesson No. 1: When the mainstream media write or say that a conservative “suggested” something that sounds outrageous, it usually means the conservative never actually said it. After all, why write “suggested” and not “said” or “wrote”? Be suspicious whenever anything attributed to a conservative has no quotation marks and no source.

Seven paragraphs later—long after having mischaracterized my words to prime the readers’ perception—the Times writer did quote me on the subject. He said, “Mr. Prager suggested that if same-sex marriage were legalized, then ‘there is no plausible argument for denying polygamous relationships, or brothers and sisters, or parents and adult children, the right to marry.’”

Though no context was given, the words quoted are accurate and a source was given. It was a 2014 column I wrote about judges having hubris for overturning voters in state after state who voted to keep marriage defined as the union of a man and a woman. “I was responding to then-District Judge Vaughn Walker, who struck down California’s Proposition 8, which had amended the state’s constitution to define marriage as ‘the union of a man and woman.’ ”

One of Judge Walker’s arguments was that “Proposition 8 prevents California from fulfilling its constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis.”

I wrote in the column, “If American society has a ‘constitutional obligation to provide marriages on an equal basis,’ then there is no plausible argument for denying polygamous relationships, or brothers and sisters, or parents and adult children, the right to marry.”

Had *The New York Times* author been intellectually honest, he would have written the context and the entire quote. Or, if he had wanted to merely paraphrase me, he could have written, "Prager suggested that if same-sex marriage were legalized, there were no arguments against legalizing polygamy and adult incest."

But that would have sounded a lot less awful than saying I suggested same-sex marriage will lead to polygamy and incest.

So, for as long as human beings and the internet exist, people who wish to dismiss me or my views on same-sex marriage will quote *The New York Times* mischaracterization. Readers will not know that the quote about same-sex marriage and incest is not mine but that of a *New York Times* writer.

■ Lesson No. 2: When used by the mainstream media, the words "divisive" or "contentious" simply mean "leftists disagree with."

Both words were used in *The New York Times* piece. The writer wrote that my "political views are divisive" and that I've made "other contentious statements."

But the only reason my views are "divisive" and "contentious" is *The New York Times* differs with them.

During the eight-year presidency of Barack Obama, did *The New York Times* once describe anything he did or said as "divisive" or "contentious" (including his pre-2012 opposition to the legalization of same-sex marriage)?

■ Lesson No. 3: Contrary evidence is omitted.

Despite all the Santa Monica musicians who supported my conducting; despite the musicians from other orchestras—including the Los Angeles Philharmonic—who asked to play when I conducted; and despite the orchestra's conductor and board members who have followed my work for decades, not one quote in the entire article described me in a positive light.

Rather, the article is filled with quotes describing me in the worst possible way. Two of the four musicians who wrote the original letter against me are quoted extensively (calling me "horribly bigoted" and saying I help "normalize bigotry"); a gay member of the orchestra is quoted accusing me of writing "some pretty awful things about gay people, women and minorities" (for the record, I have never written an awful word about gay people, women or minorities); and the former mayor's attack on me was quoted.

■ Lesson No. 4: Subjects are covered in line with left-wing ideology.

The subject of the article could have easily (and more truthfully) been covered in a positive way, as something unifying and uplifting.

"Despite coming from different political worlds, a leading conservative and a very liberal city unite to make music together"—why wasn't this the angle of the story?

Similarly, instead of its headline, "Santa Monica Symphony Roiled by Conservative Guest Conductor," the *Times* could have used a headline and reported the very opposite: "Santa Monica Symphony Stands by Conservative Guest Conductor."

That also would have conveyed more truth than the actual headline. But the difference between “roiled by” and “stands by” is the difference between a left-wing agenda and truth.

And even with the headline as it appeared in the *Times*, shouldn’t the story have offered quotes from supportive musicians to balance the negativity? One was left wondering why the invitation to guest-conduct was offered to such a person to begin with.

Now let’s go to the *Los Angeles Times*, which was as negative as *The New York Times*, though at least its two negative columns were opinion columns—unlike *The New York Times*, they were not news stories, strictly speaking.

On Aug. 8, *Los Angeles Times* columnist Michael Hiltzik, a Pulitzer Prize winner, wrote a column headlined “How right-winger Dennis Prager politicized his own symphony gig—and declared himself the victim.”

The mendacity of the title is quite something. Never in all the years I have conducted orchestras have I used the opportunity to say a political word. My sole purpose has been to conduct orchestras, raise funds for those community orchestras and bring new people to classical music. The only people to ever politicize my conducting appearances are a few left-wing musicians and politicians in Santa Monica.

Those people made my conducting a political issue. Yet Hiltzik writes that I am the one who did. “It’s Prager himself who pumped up the political component of the controversy,” he says.

This is a fine example of “the indefensibly corrupt manipulations of language repeated incessantly in our leading media.”

It is also worth noting that every mainstream news source, like the *Los Angeles Times*, identified me as either “right-wing” or “conservative.” Commentators and talk show hosts on the left, however, are virtually never identified as “left-wing” or “liberal.” This is because in the closed world of the left, the left is the norm and the right is the aberration.

Hiltzik also wrote that “many in the orchestra find Prager’s views noxious.” That was after writing, “So far, seven musicians have said they won’t perform . . . leaving 70 still on the roster.”

Apparently, about 1 out of 10 is “many.” (Hiltzik also didn’t mention the equal number of musicians from other orchestras who asked to play when I conducted.)

Then there was the column by the *Los Angeles Times* classical music critic, Mark Swed.

He wrote: “Can a divisive public conservative amateur musician conduct an orchestra? That’s asking for trouble.”

Note again the word “divisive”—only conservatives divide because, again, in the mind of the left, left is normative. And in case you missed it the first time, Swed later wrote about my “militant polarizing of issues.”

As a conservative, I am not only divisive; I am a militant polarizer.

Does Swed provide an example of my militant polarizing? Yes, just one: my "calling liberalism a cancer."

Like *The New York Times* article, Swed did not place the words he attributed to me in quotation marks, and for good reason. I have never in my life written or said that "liberalism is a cancer." What I did write recently is that "leftism is a terminal cancer in the American bloodstream."

But I always distinguish between leftism and liberalism because the two have almost nothing in common. Leftism is as anti-liberal as it is anti-conservative. But Swed knows that writing "liberalism is a cancer" renders me far more extreme-sounding than writing "leftism is a cancer."

However, what is most disturbing about Swed is not that he wrote a column against the Santa Monica Symphony inviting me to conduct. Hiltzik wrote a similar piece, after all. But as irresponsible as Hiltzik's piece was, Hiltzik is a political columnist. Swed is not. He is a classical music critic. What he did was one of the reasons I wrote that leftism is a cancer in the American bloodstream: The left damages virtually everything it touches—the arts, education, religion, the economy, the news media and the military, among other areas of life.

When I was a young man living in New York City, I read every column the legendary *New York Times* classical music critic Harold C. Schonberg wrote. I do not recall him ever writing a political column. To this day, I have no idea whether Schonberg was a liberal, a leftist, a conservative or a Buddhist. He knew his role was to write about music. Swed, a man of the left, does not.

Finally, we come to NPR. It published a piece on Aug. 13 titled "Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra Confronts Controversy Over Right-Wing Guest Conductor."

Putting the title aside—again, it communicates a negative story when a positive take would have been just as valid—the piece was considerably more balanced than those of the *Los Angeles Times* or that of *The New York Times*.

But it had the usual media defect: It gave away its political bent. The second paragraph read: "Dennis Prager's day job, however, has members of the orchestra up in arms—and laying down their instruments. He is a conservative talk show host who often targets multiculturalism, Muslims and LGBTQ people."

The writer gave an example in each case. For multiculturalism, she cited a column I wrote titled "1,400 Girls Raped by Multiculturalism."

In it I described the kidnapping and sexual enslavement of over 1,400 English girls by young Muslim men over the course of more than a decade—while the police and the media conspired never to divulge that the rapists were Muslim. The reason, as British authorities later admitted, was their commitment to multiculturalism.

But for a writer at NPR—even one who did not go out of her way to portray me as a mean-spirited bigot, as *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles*

Times did—the mere fact that I wrote a column against multiculturalism explains why members of the orchestra were “up in arms.”

As for “targeting” Muslims, she cited my column titled “Yes, Muslims Should Be Asked to Condemn Islamic Terror.” In NPR’s moral universe, asking Muslims to condemn Islamic terror is equivalent to “targeting” Muslims. When the left demands that our white president condemn white-supremacist violence, is it targeting whites?

And the example she supplied for my “targeting” LGBTQ people is my 2014 critique of judges who, I argued, overreached their authority when they overturned popular votes to keep marriage defined as the union of a man and a woman. The whole article was a critique of judges, not LGBTQ people. But on the left, merely disagreeing with judges about an LGBTQ issue is “targeting” LGBTQ people.

In summary, all mainstream media coverage of this one story was tainted, biased, often false and predicated solely on left-wing presumptions. Magnify what they did to me a thousandfold and you will begin to understand media behavior over the last two generations, and especially behavior today, when hysteria and advocacy have completely replaced news reporting.

The media pay little or no price among those who still believe them.

But I will pay a price. *The New York Times* lied when it wrote that I “suggested that same-sex marriage would lead to polygamy and incest.” Yet that will be cited forever as if it were true.

It’s already begun. On the night of the concert, the Fox TV station in Los Angeles reported: “A left wing attempt to boycott a performance of the Santa Monica Symphony due to a guest appearance by conservative radio host Dennis Prager backfired on Wednesday night; the event was a sellout. . . . Prager has made controversial comments in the past, saying that he believes gay marriage would lead to incest.”



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.”