

Eye on the World

Feb. 23, 2019

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 Feb. 23, 2019.

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 Tyler Cowen titled “Venezuela Isn’t Just a Failed State; It’s a Failure of the Left” was posted at bloomberg.com on Feb. 20, 2019. Following is the article.

As Venezuela careens toward a further economic and political collapse, the blame game is heating up. In the U.S., Republicans are labeling the country “socialist,” using Venezuelan problems as a weapon against more left-leaning Democrats.

Commentators on the left, in contrast, are arguing that Venezuela is more of a failed petro-state with bad leadership, rather than a test of socialist ideals. Who is right?

If we look at government spending as a percentage of GDP, Venezuela seems far from socialism. In recent years government spending in Venezuela has been measured at about 40 percent of GDP, with the caveat that these statistics are not fully reliable. For the U.S., the corresponding figure is about 37 percent.

Yet emerging economies typically cannot afford the same government programs as wealthier countries, and they cannot run them with the same efficacy. Poorer countries that try to expand their governments to size of wealthier countries, such as Brazil and Venezuela, typically encounter sub-par economic performance. These are indeed stories of big government run amok, as some of conservatives are suggesting.

Furthermore, rates of change are important. The Venezuelan figure of about 40 percent is up from about 28 percent in 2000, a very rapid increase. By boosting government spending so quickly, the Venezuelan government was sending a message that the key to future riches is courting government favor, not starting new businesses.

Or consider exports, which for most developing economies play an especially critical role. They bring in foreign exchange, provide contacts to foreign markets, and force parts of the economy to learn how to compete with the very best foreign companies. Yet over 90 percent of Venezuela's exports are oil, and those resources are owned and controlled by the government. For this all-important growth driver, Venezuela comes pretty close to full socialism—to its detriment.

Chile has prudently managed its state-owned copper reserves (also a big export earner), but Venezuelan leaders have treated state oil money as a slush fund for themselves and their cronies, and furthermore they borrowed against future oil revenues. The daughter of former President Hugo Chavez, who died six years ago, is still reportedly one of the richest women in Venezuela. Of course that came largely from state resources, and it happened while the Venezuelan citizenry was sinking further into poverty.

In fact, nationalizations under Chavez were numerous—encompassing much of the oil sector plus parts of the agriculture, transport, power, steel, telecommunications and finance industries. Even though many of those nationalizations were small in scale, the threat of further encroachments on private property rights discouraged investment and sent the wrong signal about where the nation was headed.

And this may be the most important point: Socialism, capitalism and other systems matter not only for the conditions they create but because of the ideas they propagate. This is true even if these ideologies are followed incompletely or imperfectly.

One simple way to trace that influence for Chavez is to look at Wikiquotes, where you will find plenty of utterances against globalization and the market economy. "Privatization is a neoliberal and imperialist plan," he said in 2005. "Health can't be privatized because it is a fundamental human right, nor can education, water, electricity and other public services. They can't be surrendered to private capital that denies the people from their rights."

That rhetoric of victimization and absolute moralizing against markets doesn't sound so different from a lot of what I hear from non-Venezuelans on social media.

Like his praise for anti-capitalist, anti-American regimes such as Belarus and Iran, a lot of Chavez's rhetoric might have been written off as political posturing.

But it has continued under his successor, Nicolas Maduro, who has also failed to use his post to educate Venezuelans about the benefits of capitalism and globalization—in stark contrast to many East Asian leaders. Instead, the promotion of socialist ideas has helped to make Venezuelan society less economically robust and more vulnerable to collapse.

And while many on the left are now keen to disavow any connection to the Venezuelan disaster, their earlier enthusiasm is on the record. Greg Grandin, writing in *The Nation* in 2013, offered a laudatory take on Chavez and suggested that Venezuela “might be the most democratic country in the Western hemisphere.” (He also argued, oddly enough, that Chavez “wasn’t authoritarian enough.”)

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the U.K.’s Labour Party, has also been a big Chavez fan, while Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz praised Venezuela’s economic policies in 2007 and declared that the risks of higher inflation were overrated.

Yes, there are some exaggerations and mischaracterizations in the right-wing charge that Venezuela’s system is socialism, pure and simple. At the same time, the evidence shows that, for some parts of the ideological left, the cause for embarrassment is very real indeed.



An article by Mark Episkopos titled “Russia’s S-300 vs. Israel’s Deadly Air Force: Who Wins?” was posted at nationalinterest.com on Feb. 9, 2019. Following is the article.

S-300 surface-to-air missile systems are now active in Syria, according to images captured by an Israeli Eros-B satellite.

“Three erected s-300 launchers observed by the ISI (ImageSat International) for the first time since arriving from Russia and deploying in Masyaf (October 2018).

Out of a total of four, one launcher is covered by a camouflage net,” reads a caption accompanying the image. The caption adds, “due to the current regional tension, and the detected erection of the launchers, it is possible that the mentioned activity indicates increase of the operational level and alertness”. It is worth noting that the fourth, camouflaged S-300 cannot be clearly made out from the provided image.

This development is hardly a surprise, as the Kremlin quite publicly transferred these S-300’s to Syria in response to Israel’s involvement in the downing of a Russian reconnaissance plane last year.

However, it does beg two questions of timing: why did Russia take so long to deploy these systems, and why now?

The easiest, most immediate answer is that Syrian forces had to be trained in how to operate the S-300. However, a more profound factor may be at play: Moscow’s strategic caution.

Russia’s S-300 transfer to Syria was, first and foremost, a deconfliction measure; as Russia Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu put it, “We are convinced that these measures will cool down the ‘hot heads’ and keep them from ill-conceived actions threatening our troops.”

Russian strategic command may have hoped to deter further Israeli air strikes with the threat of inactive S-300's being stockpiled in Syria, without having to take the added escalatory risk of deploying them.

Any such hopes were dashed with the most recent wave of Israeli bombing runs against Iranian targets at Damascus International Airport, which may well have been the final straw pushing the Kremlin to deploy the S-300's only a few weeks later.

Further compounding Russia's military predicament, Israeli damage reports indicate that Russian-made Pantsir S1 and Buk-M2E air defense systems underperformed in fending off Israeli F-16's; the Israelis even released several clips of Pantsir S1's being allegedly struck during IDF (Israeli Defense Force) airstrikes.

The S-300 PMU-2, which can track up to thirty-six aerial targets and engage six at a range of two-hundred kilometers, is vastly more formidable than its Pantsir and Buk counterparts. The PMU-2 is an export-oriented "deep modernization" of the original S-300, capable of intercepting a wider range of projectiles including MRBM's (medium-range ballistic missiles).

Given how much trouble the S-300's predecessor, the S-200, has given the Israeli air force in the recent past, operational S-300 batteries should pose a serious potential threat to IDF aircraft operating within western Syrian airspace where the Assad regime's government forces are heavily concentrated.

Russia has already deployed two even more advanced S-400 systems in Northwest Syria, but these are domestic (not export) models stationed for the sole purpose of protecting Russian assets. By comparison, these S-300's pose a much greater tactical threat to the IDF because they will be operated directly by the Syrian Army.

Whereas the Russians have expressed a desire to work with Israel in managing the Syrian crisis, Russian Ambassador to Israel Anatoly Viktorov tells Russian state news the Israelis are concerned that the Syrian army will not prove nearly as restrained in their use of the S-300: "Most of all, the Israelis are worried about the prospect of handing over control over the systems to the Syrian military."

The recent S-300 deployments may prove to be a source of Russian leverage against Israel in Syrian deconfliction negotiations, to be held in Moscow later this month.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

■ An article titled "IDF Practices Massive Drill to 'Simulate Conditions of War With Hezbollah' " was posted at jns.org on Feb. 15, 2019.

- An article titled "Iran Points to Pakistan After Deadly Attack on Guard" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 17, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Iran Says Pakistan to 'Pay High Price' Over Attack, Warns Saudi" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 16, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Sanjeev Miglani and Fayaz Bukhari titled "U.S. Backs India's Right to Defend Itself After Kashmir Attack" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 16, 2019.
- An article by Aljaz Hussain titled "Retired Indian General [D.S. Hooda] Urges Caution Against Pakistan Strike" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 16, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Pakistan Urges U.N. to Intervene Over Kashmir Tension With India" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 18, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Asif Shahzad and Fayaz Bukhari titled "Pakistani PM Warns India Against Attack, Urges Talks on Kashmir Blast" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 19, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Devjyot Ghoshal and James Mackenzie titled "India Reiterates Plan to Stop Sharing of Excess Water With Pakistan: Minister" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 21, 2019.
- A Reuters by James Mackenzie and Asif Shahzad titled "'Don't Mess With Pakistan,' India Is Told Amid Kashmir Tension" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 22, 2019.
- An article by Niha Masih titled "India Orders 'Staggering' Eviction of 1 Million Indigenous People; Some Environmentalists Are Cheering" was posted at washingtonpost.com on Feb. 22, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Pakistan Says Crown Prince Orders 2,100 Pakistani Prisoners Released" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 18, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Drazen Jorgic and Asif Shahzad titled "Saudi Crown Prince Begins Asia Tour With \$20 Billion Pakistan Investment Pledge" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 17, 2019.
- An article titled "India-Pakistan Tensions Threaten to Derail Saudi Prince's Delhi Trip" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 19, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Iran Starts Gulf War Games, to Test Submarine-Launched Missiles" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 22, 2019.
- An article titled "Germany's Merkel Defends Iran Deal As Pence Accuses Europe of Undermining the U.S." was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 16, 2019.
- An article by David Rising and Geir Moulson titled "Merkel Defends Iran Deal, Multilateralism; But Pence Resists" was posted at apnews.com on Feb. 16, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Robin Emmott titled "China Rebuffs Germany's Call for U.S. Missile Deal With Russia" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 16, 2019.

■ An article by Ildefonso Ortiz and Brandon Darby titled “Cartel Ambushes Mexican Soldiers Near Texas Border” was posted at breitbart.com on Feb. 18, 2019.



An article by Ben Shapiro titled “3 Lessons From the Jussie Smollett Hoax” was posted at dailywire.com on Feb. 20, 2019. Following is the article.

So, Jussie Smollett was lying.

The “Empire” actor claimed that when he was walking home at 2 a.m. in Chicago, in the midst of the polar vortex, he was accosted by two assailants, both of whom shouted anti-gay and anti-black slurs at him.

They then attempted to throw a noose around his neck and pour what he thought was bleach on him while shouting, “This is MAGA country!” he says.

None of this is true. Police now think that Smollett paid two of his friends to stage the entire attack.

Why, exactly, would Smollett do it? He is a successful actor on a hit television show. He’s been continuously working in Hollywood for years, with roles in the 2017 films “Marshall” and “Alien: Covenant.”

He’s not exactly a textbook victim.

The answer to this question makes for some uncomfortable lessons.

■ First, alleged victims sometimes have an incentive to lie.

For several years, each time an alleged victim tells an unverified and unverifiable story, we are told that we must believe that victim’s story. Why? Because, why would the victim lie? But this is often untrue.

Smollett had an incentive to lie: unending media attention, fawning sycophancy from politicians, and the potential for even greater Hollywood stardom. If Smollett had gotten away with his hoax, he’d be the face of gay, black suffering in the United States. Few had heard of Smollett before this story. Suddenly, he found himself on “Good Morning America,” telling the world about his own bravery. That’s a lucrative career path.

■ Second, hoaxers can read the tea leaves.

There’s a reason that the most prominent racial and sexual hoaxes have generally flattered the political sensibilities of the political left. Right-wing hoaxes might catch the attention of right-wing sources, but left-wing sources are far more powerful and plentiful.

Imagine if a MAGA-hatted young Republican had accused two young black men of assaulting him while shouting, “F—Trump!” That story might get play

on talk radio and Fox News, but it wouldn't earn one iota of attention from celebrity culture or the mainstream media.

■ Third, social media make hoaxes infinitely easier.

There are large-scale incentives for jumping on every story before the facts are clear, which is why Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Kamala Harris, D-Calif., both running for president, tweeted their support for Smollett ... and then had to backtrack radically, suggesting as the hoax emerged that they had to wait for more facts.

Being the first to rip America bears political fruit; waiting for the whole story often earns public castigation for insufficient sensitivity.

All of this means that the hoaxes won't stop anytime soon. The incentives simply aren't aligned for hoaxes to end. Media members are too eager to buy into stories that support their preferred narratives; social media are too eager to engage in pile-ons of epic proportions; hoaxers are obviously eager to make a buck or win some fame.

That means that we should all wait next time we hear a story too good to be true.

But we won't. Nobody knows who the next Jussie Smollett will be. But within a few weeks, we'll surely know.



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "Malkin's Handy History of Fake Noose" was posted at michellemalkin.com on Feb. 20, 2019. Following is the article.

Is it any wonder that American news consumers are at the end of their ropes of patience with the "mainstream media"?

Three weeks ago, when I first documented troubling questions, contradictions and doubts about Trump-hating, attention-craving actor Jussie Smollett's absurd hate crime claims, few in the "professional" journalism herd paid heed. Now, with a grand jury investigation on the horizon, everyone's a Johnny-come-lately debunker.

And everyone's making excuses: How could we have known?

Why would anyone lie about racism? What could have possibly prepared us for such a scandalous swindle?

I'm especially looking at you, Robin Roberts. You and ABC's "Good Morning America" willingly played public relations agents for Smollett last week while his story was already falling apart and he refused to be fully transparent with investigators. Now, you defend yourselves by hiding behind a veil of ignorance about hate crimes hoaxes.

Listen and learn, addled enablers of fraud. Fake Noose is a sick phenomenon that has run rampant across the country unchecked. I've chronicled the self-victimization pathology in my books, columns and blog posts for years:

- Columbia University, 2007. Remember black psychology professor Madonna Constantine? She made the rounds on none other than ABC's "Good Morning America," claiming she found a "degrading" noose (made of hand-tied twine) hanging from her office door. Constantine led fist-waving protests, decried "systematic racism," and prompted a nationwide uproar, as I reported at the time in the New York Post. Things didn't add up when Columbia initially blocked investigators from obtaining 56 hours of surveillance video. No culprits could be found on the militantly progressive campus obsessed with diversity and multiculturalism. It turned out that Constantine was desperately trying to distract from a brewing internal probe of her serial plagiarism, for which she was eventually fired. The hate crime probe hit a dead end and Constantine faced no criminal charges over the Fake Noose incident.
- Baltimore Fire Department, 2007. Another manufactured outrage erupted when black firefighter-paramedic apprentice Donald Maynard claimed he found a knotted rope and threatening note with a noose drawing on it at his stationhouse. A federal civil rights investigation ensued and the NAACP cried racism—until Maynard confessed to the noose nonsense amid a department-wide cheating scandal. A top official revealed that Maynard admitted "conducting a scheme meant to create the perception that members within our department were acting in a discriminatory and unprofessional manner." Maynard faced no criminal charges over the Fake Noose incident.
- University of Delaware, 2015. Black Lives Matter agitators and campus activists triggered a full alert when a student spotted a "racist display" of three "noose-like objects" hanging from trees. The UD president called it "deplorable;" protesters wept that they were not being taken seriously. After investigating, police discovered the "nooses" were metal "remnants of paper lanterns" hung as decorations during an alumni weekend celebration.
- Salisbury State University, 2016. Students, faculty and administrators were horrified when a stick figure hanging from a noose on a whiteboard was discovered at the school's library. The N-word and hashtag #WhitePower also appeared in the menacing graffiti. Campus authorities immediately launched an investigation, which exposed two black students as the perpetrators. Prosecutors declined to file criminal charges against the Fake Noosers.
- Kansas State University, 2017. A paroxysm of protest struck K-State after someone reported a noose hanging from a tree on campus. Black students lambasted authorities for not acting quickly enough. They stoked anger online with the hashtag #DontLeaveUsHanging and demanded increased security. But the "noose" was made of cut pieces of nylon parachute cord, which police believed had been discarded by someone who "may have simply been practicing tying different kinds of knots."
- Michigan State University, 2017. When a student reported a noose hanging outside her dorm room, MSU administrators went into full freakout mode over the racial incident. Cops and the Office of Institutional Equity were immediately notified. "A noose is a symbol of intimidation and threat that has a horrendous histo-

ry in America,” the university president bemoaned. But it turned out the “noose” was a “packaged leather shoelace” that someone had dropped accidentally.

■ Smithsonian museums, 2017. NPR called the discovery of “nooses” lying on the grounds of two Smithsonian Institute museums the “latest in a string of hate incidents” after Trump’s election. The African-American museum director called them a “reminder of America’s dark history.” But the museums refused to release surveillance video and my public records request filed last November yielded zero corroboration of any hate crime. The Washington Post, New York Times and ABC’s “Good Morning America,” which all splashed the story front and center, have yet to follow up.

■ Mississippi State Capitol, 2018. ABC, CBS, CNN and Yahoo were among the media outlets that blared headlines about seven nooses and “hate signs” found hanging in trees by the capitol building before a special runoff election for U.S. Senate. The stories created an unmistakable impression that the nooses were left by GOP racists intending to intimidate black voters. In truth, the nooses were a publicity stunt perpetrated by Democrats.

In the wake of Smollett’s folly, media sensationalists bluster that there’s no way they could have known they were being strung along.

Thanks for the valuable admission, elite news professionals, that you are not only dumb and blind but incompetent to boot.

It doesn’t take a fancy journalism degree to learn from the long, sordid history of Fake Noose: When you’ve seen one social justice huckster, you’ve seen ‘em all.



An article by Patricia Mosley (a black conservative) titled “Northam’s Real Offense to African-Americans” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 19, 2019. Following is the article.

Raise your hand if you’re a white Democrat who has NOT worn blackface.

I’m sure that’s a question that went through a lot of people’s minds after both the Virginia Governor and the state attorney general admitted to wearing racist costumes in the past.

The irony is that these revelations about a political party for whom the black vote is a lifeline are breaking at the start of Black History Month. Many Americans are still unaware of what blackface is or how it is offensive to African-Americans.

In times past, rather than casting African-Americans in acting roles, the entertainment industry would dress their white performers in blackface to portray demeaning caricatures of blacks.

This video by the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture gives a good overview of the history of blackface and why it is so offensive.

In one sense, the lack of awareness about blackface is a good thing because it demonstrates that we have not had to deal with the issue in a long time.

However, no other people group in the United States has endured more humiliation and cruelty than African-Americans, and the original motivation behind blackface carved a deep wound that is still healing. One recent triumph over this expression of racism was the success of Marvel's *Black Panther*.

It is also interesting that these incidents of racism are surfacing on the heels of states attempting to adopt extreme abortion laws. The two issues go hand in hand—both have successfully demeaned African-Americans.

Days before Governor Northam's yearbook photos depicting him in blackface or KKK attire (he still refuses to admit which one he is in the photo), he took a cue from the Democratic New York Governor Andrew Cuomo in calling for late-term abortion.

Not content with that, he then doubled down on infanticide! Planned Parenthood hailed him as a "champion" for women's progress for saying that it should not always be necessary to resuscitate a baby who survived a failed abortion attempt.

Besides blackface and KKK hoods, there is nothing more racist than annihilating a people group before they even have a chance at life. As the Rev. Michel Faulkner of New Horizon Church once said, "My people, the African-American people, did not . . . endure 300 years of slavery and 100 years of Jim Crow law to face genocide in the 21st century." In New York alone more black babies are aborted than born alive.

The eugenics movement has direct ties to the abortion industry, which has been a leading campaign contributor to the Democratic Party for decades (which has historically been the party of slavery, Jim Crow, and the KKK) in exchange for protecting abortion on demand.

Governor Northam's third largest campaign donor is Planned Parenthood, which dished out nearly \$2 million to get him elected. Planned Parenthood's founder, Margaret Sanger, once said, "We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population."

It is no accident that today nearly 80 percent of Planned Parenthood clinics are in minority communities, and, although 13 percent of American women are black, they receive over 35 percent of the abortions.

According to the latest census data, just over 12 percent of the U.S. population is African-American, and yet over 30 percent of all 2014 abortions were committed on black babies.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the African-American population "grew at a slower rate than most other major race and ethnic groups in the country." We have just approached the 400th anniversary of when slaves first arrived in the American colonies.

How is it that African-Americans have been a part of this country since 1619 and yet still only make up less than 13 percent of the nation?

The pro-life issue should make the African-American community reevaluate what will be their priority issue when heading into the next elections. Regardless of party affiliation, no other political issue is more important than the right to exist.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Plunder: An American Way of Life" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Feb. 20, 2019. Following is the article.

Frederic Bastiat, a French economist and member of the French National Assembly, lived from 1801 to 1850. He had great admiration for our country, except for our two faults—slavery and tariffs. He said: "Look at the United States. There is no country in the world where the law is kept more within its proper domain: the protection of every person's liberty and property."

If Bastiat were alive today, he would not have that same level of admiration. The U.S. has become what he fought against for most of his short life.

Bastiat observed that "when plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men in a society, over the course of time they create for themselves a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it."

You might ask, "What did Bastiat mean by 'plunder'?"

Plunder is when someone forcibly takes the property of another. That's private plunder. What he truly railed against was legalized plunder, and he told us how to identify it. He said: "See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime."

That could describe today's American laws. We enthusiastically demand that the U.S. Congress forcibly use one American to serve the purposes of another American. You say: "Williams, that's insulting. It's no less than saying that we Americans support a form of slavery!"

What then should we call it when two-thirds to three-quarters of a \$4 trillion-plus federal budget can be described as Congress taking the property of one American and giving it to another to whom it does not belong?

Where do you think Congress gets the billions upon billions of dollars for business and farmer handouts?

What about the billions handed out for Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, housing allowances and thousands of other handouts?

There's no Santa Claus or tooth fairy giving Congress the money, and members of Congress are not spending their own money. The only way Congress can give one American \$1 is to first take it from another American.

What if I privately took the property of one American to give to another American to help him out?

I'm guessing and hoping you'd call it theft and seek to jail me. When Congress does the same thing, it's still theft. The only difference is that it's legalized theft.

However, legality alone does not establish morality.

Slavery was legal; was it moral?

Nazi, Stalinist and Maoist purges were legal, but were they moral?

Some argue that Congress gets its authority to bypass its enumerated powers from the general welfare clause. There are a host of proofs that the Framers had no such intention.

James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," wrote, "If Congress can do whatever in their discretion can be done by money, and will promote the general welfare, the Government is no longer a limited one possessing enumerated powers, but an indefinite one."

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Our tenet ever was . . . that Congress had not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare, but were restrained to those specifically enumerated."

Rep. William Drayton of South Carolina asked in 1828, "If Congress can determine what constitutes the general welfare and can appropriate money for its advancement, where is the limitation to carrying into execution whatever can be effected by money?"

What about our nation's future?

Alexis de Tocqueville is said to have predicted, "The American republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money."

We long ago began ignoring Bastiat's warning when the federal government was just a tiny fraction of gross domestic product—3 percent, as opposed to today's 20 percent: "If you don't take care, what begins by being an exception tends to become general, to multiply itself, and to develop into a veritable system."

Moral Americans are increasingly confronted with Bastiat's dilemma: "When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law."



An article by Mayyah McTaggart titled "Social Media and the Cult of Personality" was posted at loneconservative.org on Feb. 5, 2019. Following is the article.

"Alexandria Occasio-Cortez has started a livestream. Watch before it ends!"

As millennials and Generation Z come of age and start engaging with the civic process, there has been an increased effort by both parties—but the Demo-

crats especially—to appeal to young voters. A major part of this effort is more effective use of social media, utilizing it to spread their message.

The results have been mixed.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's (D-NY) livestreams and Twitter presence have skyrocketed her image, turning her into one of the most well known congressman.

On the other hand, Senator Elizabeth Warren's (D-MA) attempts to be "relatable" were met with less success.

However, whether successful or not, one thing is for sure: in the midst of root canal livestreams, cooking recipes, and Elizabeth Warren cracking open a cold one with the boys, we have lost any rational or meaningful discussion of policy.

During the 2018 midterm elections, Representative Robert "Beto" O'Rourke soared to political stardom as the Democrat bid to replace Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX). The phenomenon was so intense it had a name: Betomania. "Beto" signs popped up all of the country, including in my home town in Northern Virginia, a far cry from Texas. People reimagined YMCA as B-E-T-O. And some highly inappropriate statements made their way around the twittersphere, forcing me to mute the words "Beto tweet" for the sake of my own sanity.

But what sparked all this fervor and interest? What radical new policies did Rep O'Rourke have that set social media and the American public aflame?

- O'Rourke's certainly no progressive: his voting record is more conservative than that of the average Democrat, like Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York.
- His platform does not contain any inspiring new projects.
- In fact, it's decidedly generic, far from the radical policies pushed by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-V).
- And he is certainly no from rags to riches story, like Ocasio-Cortez. So what is it then?
- The answer boils down to this: "likeability."

O'Rourke used to play in a rock band, he skate boarded his way across the stage at a campaign event, and middle-aged women found him attractive. To top it all off, he was running to unseat Cruz, the epitome, in many ways, of everything the left despises.

Now, despite losing his Senate race, O'Rourke is a front-runner for 2020, with no real agenda and no real appeal, policy-wise to any particular political constituency, as he stands for no real ideas.

O'Rourke's fanbase is a new and dangerous evolution from the so-called "Bernie Bros" of 2016. Instead of being obsessed with a new vision for the United States, they're enamoured by a cult-of-personality. This isn't unique to just O'Rourke, however.

Newly elected Ocasio-Cortez also garnered a massive following, although barely being able to articulate her own ideas. However, she is a savvy social media presence with high likeability: She dances! She tries new recipes on livestream! She claps back at the conservatives on Twitter! And that has saved her.

Her newfound popularity, in light of her dangerous inattention to policy, should worry us all. No matter how funny Twitter may be, “Republican tears” cannot pay for radical socialist proposals, and clever comebacks are no substitute for real solutions to our country’s problems.

Despite these new Democratic politicians lack of policy chops, they are now becoming models for other Democratic candidates, especially 2020 presidential hopefuls who try and often fail at social media—cough, Elizabeth Warren, cough—assuming that drinking Michelob on Instagram livestream is somehow a substitute for a political agenda. In the era of “relatability” politics and social media, expertise, pragmatism, and policy have all been sacrificed at the altar of “likeability.”

Any real, achievable vision for America has been lost in the fray.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “A Nation Going to Pot” was posted at patriotpост.us on Feb. 16, 2019. Following is the article.

Democrats always claim to be looking out for the poor, and yet they’re always promoting higher taxes for gas, cigarettes, beer and soft drinks, items that hit the poor the hardest. They also push in state after state for the legalization of marijuana, all in pursuit of additional tax revenue.

When it comes to sucking up additional tax dollars for their political coffers, everything else takes second place.

The main reason they care so much about increasing taxes is because that is the source of the welfare they dole out to poor people who then show their gratitude by voting for their benefactors, unaware of the fact that the money given them was often their own to begin with.

But you don’t have to be poor and stupid to be fooled by that particular shell game. Aren’t those of us who pay quarterly taxes or have taxes withheld from our paychecks not equally delighted to receive a tax refund?

But there is something particularly vile about the various states legalizing recreational pot. Worst of all, it’s not the legislators shoving it down our throats; it’s the citizens in Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, Washington and Washington, D.C.

What’s so striking about it is that the majority of people who are voting to legalize it will never use it. That’s because the pot propagandists have been working long and hard to convince us that the stuff is perfectly harmless. Stoopnagels like Bill Maher, Cheech and Chong, Woody Harrelson, George

Carlin and just about every other stand-up comedian, have been waging decades-long campaigns to convince us it's cool and harmless, as has Hollywood, starting with the movie "MASH."

When they get really desperate, they stoop to claiming it's less harmful than alcohol, which is the same technique employed by the likes of Sen. Steny Hoyer when he plays down the murders and rapes committed by illegal aliens by pointing out that we already have plenty of home-grown murderers and rapists, so what's the big deal if we import a few more?

We have also been bombarded by the alleged benefits of medical marijuana. At least that might have persuaded me that pot isn't all bad, had I not read an article by Alex Berenson that he titled "Marijuana, Mental Illness and Violence."

He begins by letting us know that he came by his interest in marijuana because of his wife, who, until recently, had been a senior psychiatrist at the Mid-Hudson Forensic Psychiatric Institute, home to 300 men who had been judged not guilty of their violent crimes by reason of insanity. These are men who have been determined to suffer from psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia, that provoked them to kill both family members and perfect strangers.

"A couple of years ago," Berenson recalls, "my wife Jackie was telling me about a patient. In passing, she said something like, 'Of course he'd been smoking pot his whole life.'

"Of course?" I said. "Yes," she said, "they all smoke it."

He went on: "I was surprised, to say the least. I tended to be a libertarian when it came to drugs. Years before, I'd covered the pharmaceutical industry for the New York Times. I was aware of the claims about marijuana as medicine, and I'd watched the slow spread of legalized cannabis without much interest."

After his wife suggested that he should read some of the major studies that had been conducted, not just in this country, but in Europe, he read them all. The studies that are never referred to when the propagandists are rhapsodizing about the positive effects of the stuff paint a far different picture.

As Berenson, who not only read every study he could lay his hands on but spoke to every psychiatrist and brain scientist who agreed to be interviewed, puts it: "I soon realized that in all my years as a journalist, I had never seen a story where the gap between insider and outsider knowledge was so great, or the stakes so high."

He discovered that even the positive claims about pot as a pain preventer were highly exaggerated. "They are rarely tested against other pain relief drugs like ibuprofen. Just last July, a major four-year study of patients with chronic pain in Australia showed cannabis use was associated with greater pain over time."

Furthermore, cannabis today isn't the same as the stuff people were puffing on in the 1970s. Back then, the amount of THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the chemical in cannabis responsible for its psychoactive effects measured just 2%. Today, marijuana typically measures 20-25% THC.

In Finland and Denmark, two countries that track mental illness far more comprehensively than we do, they found a significant increase in violence since 2000, following an increase in cannabis use.

Here in the States, advocates insisted that legalizing marijuana would decrease crime, allowing the police to focus on actual criminals. In a 2017 speech, presidential aspirant Sen. Cory Booker claimed that "states that have legalized pot are seeing far less violent crime."

But, as Berenson concludes: "The first four states to legalize marijuana were Colorado and Washington in 2014 and Alaska and Oregon in 2015. Combined, those four states had about 450 murders and 30,300 aggravated assaults in 2013. Last year, they had almost 620 murders and 38,000 aggravated assaults, an increase of 37% for murders and 25% for assaults."

In short, those getting rich in the pot industry and the liberal politicians who abet them have been blowing smoke up our [derriere] long enough, and it's time to make America a smoke-free environment.

■ Green New Deal

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the 29-year-old ditz who has become the face and voice of the Democratic Party, has come out with what she calls the Green New Deal, which is so stupid that even Nancy Pelosi is doing her best to stamp it down before it helps propel Donald Trump into his second term.

It calls for banning fossil fuels and nuclear power by 2030. Which would not only put an end to planes and cars but require the retrofitting of every home and building in the nation. It would also lead tens of millions of people to lose their jobs. But that wouldn't matter because the youngest member of Congress also plans to offer every American a living wage, whether he or she is unable or even unwilling to work.

It would turn the U.S. into a third world country in 11 years. Or possibly even a fourth world country because even third world nations have cattle. You see, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez also wants to have cows removed from the landscape because she's convinced that they are so flatulent, their farts are causing global-warming.

So, it's adios, Sholom and auf Wiedersehen, to tenderloins, T-bones and hamburgers. Welcome to the brave new stupid, beefless world, of the Democrats.

■ Person of means

Howard Schultz, who put overly expensive coffee on the map, resents being called a billionaire, preferring to be referred to as a person of means. It seems he is upset with the current tax rate, claiming he, a person of means, should be paying more in taxes.

I don't disagree. My question is, what's stopping him? The IRS only insists you pay what you have to but has never prevented anyone from paying more. In the spirit of helping my fellow man, I am stepping forward to invite Mr. Schultz to get the ball rolling by paying my taxes.

■ Unmarried vegan

Somebody has suggested that 49-year-old Cory Booker could break away from the overcrowded field of Democrats seeking the presidency next year by identifying himself as the only unmarried vegan in the race.

It's true that would have a definite appeal to a couple of blocs of voters; namely those who would say good riddance to all of those flatulent cows and those unmarried middle-aged men found most frequently in such places as Greenwich Village, West L.A. and San Francisco.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Trite and the Tedious" was posted at patriotpost.us on Feb. 18, 2019. Following is the article.

I have found that one of the biggest drawbacks to trying to stay current with the news is having to listen to the stupid comments of Leftist politicians, which are then repeated ad nauseam by all the talking heads in the media.

For instance, whenever something sensible such as closing the border to illegal aliens or respecting the Second Amendment or denying welfare to the undeserving is suggested, some simpleton like Nancy Pelosi or Chuck Schumer is certain to rise up on their tiptoes to signal they are claiming the moral high ground in declaring "That's not who we are as a nation."

It invariably evokes the following reaction from me: So, just who in the hell are we?

Well for openers, we grant foreign invaders any number of advantages over American citizens; we don't execute murderers, rapists and child molesters, but we kill babies by the tens of millions, leaving the life or death decisions up to creepy women and doctors who violate their Hippocratic oaths every time they channel their inner Dr. Josef Mengele without even giving it a second thought.

Millions of us allow ourselves to become addicted to marijuana, cocaine, meth and heroin, providing billions of dollars to hostile nations and enriching gangsters, warlords and terrorists.

We crave an endless flood of pornography, giving little or no consideration to the fact that we are thus encouraging the victimization of enslaved women and brutalized children.

We elect ignorant, immoral politicians who promise us the moon, while ignoring the fact that the result of electing Socialists is inevitably the horrors of the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, Cuba, China, Cambodia and Venezuela.

Whereas Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Mao, Pol Pot, Castro, Chavez and Maduro, all knew exactly what they were doing, people like Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, are merely ignoramuses, "useful idiots" as defined by Vladimir Lenin, but the end result is always the same: poverty, slavery and death.

■ Female Pied Piper

Who are we as Americans? Well, an awful lot of us have made Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, a 29-year-old who, in my day, would have lost in a competition with a 13-year-old when it came to Civics, English and Math, their hope for the future.

The rest of us can only hope that this female Pied Piper turns out to be leading not the rats of Hamelin, but the lemmings of America, straight over the cliff and into the sea.

■ Unappreciative General Motors

The taxpayers of this nation saved General Motors from extinction with their tax dollars in 2009. Although the company, technically, has paid back the loan in money and stock, the American taxpayer has been shortchanged to the tune of \$10 billion. That's because the stock never recovered its previous value.

But if anyone expected GM's gratitude, shame on them. At the same time that they are shutting down plants in the U.S. and firing thousands of American workers and managers, they are expanding their factories in China and Mexico.

I, for one, hope they feel the full wrath of President Trump, who famously warned American companies there would be severe consequences for that sort of behavior.

■ Athletes boycotting the White House

In other unpleasant news, three black players on the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots announced they would be boycotting the traditional visit to the White House.

If they hadn't announced it, I doubt if anyone would have noticed their absence, especially since none of them are named Tom Brady, Julian Edelman or Stephon Gilmore. If I, who, like team owner Robert Kraft who happens to be a fan of the President's, owned the Pats, I would see to it that defensive backs Jason and Devin McCourty and free safety Duron Harmon were traded to the Oakland Raiders or the New York Jets, so they'd never have to worry again about being invited to the White House as a member of a championship team.

Duron Harmon said he would prefer visiting Barack Obama. I wish him well. His only problem might be getting past Obama's immoral wall and the immoral Secret Service agents lurking on his property.

■ Musical hit

I'm always a sucker for happy endings, so I was delighted to discover that in 1943, most show biz insiders predicted a quick demise for a musical titled "Away We Go!" But when a new song was added in New Haven, where the show was previewing prior to its Broadway opening, it not only led to the show changing its title (but keeping its exclamation point) to "Oklahoma!" but it went on to make musical theatre history.

Instead of closing after opening night, the show ran for 2,212 performances and led Richard Rodgers to experience even greater success with his new col-

laborator, Oscar Hammerstein II, than he'd enjoyed for about 25 years with his initial lyricist, Lorenz Hart.

■ Not telling about the negative

As Stephen Hanover reminded me, "Medicare for All," the new catchphrase for the terminally demented Socialists, would entail 150 million Americans losing their personal health care insurance and 800,000 people working in the insurance industry losing their jobs.

The V.A. has been offering its own version of that health care plan for years. But I haven't heard about a lot of people wanting to sign up for that nightmare that involves long waits and criminal negligence.

■ Reminder of Obama lie

And this time around, I don't wish to hear anyone's claiming that if you like your doctor or your current insurance plan you can keep it.

■ Teacher: "World War Eleven"

A story circulating on the Internet claims that Theodore "Dutch" J. Van Kirk, who was the navigator on the Enola Gay when its crew dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima, was invited to speak at a grammar school. When the young teacher introduced him as a veteran of World War Eleven (as in WWII), the old veteran stood up and walked out the door without saying a word.

As wretched as our public school system has become, I found that story hard to believe. On the other hand, the rising young star of the Democratic Party recently called for an end to cars, planes, fossil fuels and cows, and received high-fives from her congressional colleagues, so it's anybody's guess.

■ The magazine "Reminisce"

I don't read a lot of magazines, but one that I subscribe to is Reminisce. Except for an opening statement by its editor, the entire magazine is written by its readers and illustrated with photos of times gone by those same people.

The patriotic monthly is dedicated to reminding us of what, at least in its nostalgic pages, can honestly be called the good old days.

Men and women of a certain age recall how they met their mates; what games they played and hobbies they pursued 40 or 50 or 60 years ago; how they happened to meet a sports hero or got to dance with Dorothy Lamour at the USO on their way to the South Pacific.

Other people share the experience of watching TV for the first time or learning to drive or about taking family vacations. They recall friends or teachers or neighbors who helped them when they needed help the most. They remember a time when they appreciated getting something other than an apple in their Christmas stocking. Some of them recall cherishing the apple.

Some recall the hardships of the Great Depression, others recall anxiously awaiting word about their children or husbands or fathers who were fighting the Nazis and Fascists in an existential battle for civilization they knew enough to call World War Two, not World War Eleven.

If interested, you can contact their Subscription Fulfillment Center, PO Box 5278, Harlan, Iowa 51593-0778.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

Deficit

- An article by Tristen Hopper titled “The Utterly Unbelievable Scale of U.S. Debt Right Now [Above \$22 Trillion]” was posted at nationalpost.com on Feb. 15, 2019.
- An article by Virginia Montet titled “US Debt Hits Record Under Trump, Republicans Mum” was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 19, 2019.

Finances

- An article by Beth Baumann titled “Gov. Cuomo Lamblasts Ocasio-Cortez, Others Over Amazon’s Decision to Ditch New York Plans” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 14, 2019.
- An article by Billy Perrigo titled “Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Celebrated Amazon Pulling Out of New York—But the Governor Says It Cost the City 25,000 Jobs” was posted at time.com on Feb. 17, 2019.
- An article titled “New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio Slams Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s Opposition to Amazon” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 16, 2019.
- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled “Bill De Blasio: AOC Didn’t Understand Amazon Deal—at All” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 18, 2019.
- An article by Jim Kessler and Gabe Horwitz titled “New York’s Amazon Rejection Exposes U.S. Opportunity Gap and Democrats’ Political Disconnect” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 18, 2019.
- An article titled “Illinois May Tax Private Retirement Funds to Pay Public Worker Pensions” was posted at foxnews.com on Feb. 18, 2019.

Green New Deal

- An article by Guy Benson titled “Poll: Capitalism Trounces Socialism Among American Voters” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 15, 2019.

- An article by Matt Vespa titled "MSNBC: Ocasio-Cortez's Economic Idiocy Is Going to Give Trump a Second Term" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 15, 2019.
- Looking back to August, an article by Katelyn Caralle titled "Ben Shapiro Offers \$10,000 to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez If She Agrees to Hourlong Debate" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Aug. 9, 2018.
- Looking back to August, an article by Virginia Kruta titled "Ocasio-Cortez Dismisses Shapiro's Debate Challenge As Sexist—So the Ladies Line Up [Including Katie Pavlich, Candace Owens and Kaya Jones]" was posted at dai-lycaller.com on Aug. 10, 2018.
- An article by Alexandria Yoon-Hendricks titled "Will 'Basic Income' Become the California Norm? Stockton Starts \$500 No-Strings Payments" was posted at sacbee.com on Feb. 15, 2019.
- An article by Guy Benson titled "Klobuchar to Disappointed Questioner: No, the Government Shouldn't Guarantee 'Free' Four-Year College" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 19, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Democrats Don't Want ICE Notified When Illegal Aliens Try to Purchase Guns" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 18, 2019.
- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "AOC: The Border Wall Is a 'Moral Abomination' Just Like the Berlin Wall" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by John R. Lott Jr. titled "Gun Control Advocates Use Aurora Shooting to Call for More Background Checks" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2019.
- An article by John Stossel titled "Bogus Gun Research" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Craig Bannister titled "Report: Hispanics 70% of Registered Attendees for Trump's El Paso Rally" was posted at cnsnews.com on Feb. 15, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Matt Vespa titled "Coup Coup Ca Choo? Did the FBI Plot a Coup D'etat Against Trump?" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 14, 2019.
- An article by Pam Key titled "Maxine Waters Calls for Rallies Across America to Send Trump a Message: No 'Fake Emergency' " was posted at Breitbart.com on Feb. 15, 2019.
- An article by Jack Crowe titled "Farrakhan Praises Omar's Anti-Semitic Remarks: 'Shake Up That Corrupt House' " was posted at nationalreview.com on Feb. 18, 2019.

- An article by Emily Ward titled "Report: Planned Parenthood Operates Over Half of U.S. Abortion Clinics" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 15, 2019.
- An article by Alexander Burns titled "Obama Quietly Gives Advice to 2020 Democrats, But No Endorsement" was posted at [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com) on Feb. 18, 2019.
- An article by Jon Ward titled "Trent Lott Thinks Joe Biden Is the Strongest Democratic Presidential Candidate" was posted at [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) on Feb. 19, 2019.
- An article by Tom Elliott titled "Biden in Europe: America Today Is 'An Embarrassment' " was posted at [grabien.com](https://www.grabien.com) on Feb. 16, 2019.
- An article titled "Michelle Obama Would Be Tied With Biden As Frontrunner If She Ran in 2020, Poll Shows" was posted at [thehill.com](https://www.thehill.com) on Feb. 19, 2019.
- An article by Holly Oterbein titled "Bernie Sanders Records Video Announcing 2020 Campaign" was posted at [politico.com](https://www.politico.com) on Feb. 16, 2019.
- An article by Alex Seitz-Wald titled "Bernie Sanders Enters 2020 Presidential Race: 'Complete the Revolution' " was posted at [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com) on Feb. 19, 2019.
- Looking back to 2016, an article by Errol Louis titled "Why Debbie Wasserman Schultz Had to Go [Leaked Emails Revealed She Used Her Position to Assist Hillary Clinton Over Bernie Sanders]" was posted at [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) on July 25, 2016.
- Looking back to September, an article by Brian Hanley titled "20 Reasons Bernie Sanders Is the One to Beat Trump in 2020" was posted at [medium.com](https://www.medium.com) on Sept. 25, 2018.
- An article by Amie Parnes titled "Dems to Use Democratic Socialist Label Against Sanders" was posted [thehill.com](https://www.thehill.com) on Feb. 22, 2019.
- An article by Tom Embury-Dennis titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Refuses to Back Bernie Sanders for 2020 Election Run Against Trump" was posted at [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk) on Feb. 21, 2019.
- An article by Katharine Q Seelye titled "Kamala Harris Faces Scrutiny Over Jussie Smollett 'Modern Day Lynching' Comment at 2020 Campaign Event" was posted at [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk) on Feb. 19, 2019.
- An article by Victor Morton titled "Kamala Harris' Jamaican Father Rips Her for Pushing Pot Stereotype 'in Pursuit of Identity Politics' " was posted at [washingtontimes.com](https://www.washingtontimes.com) on Feb. 19, 2019.
- An article by Brianna Heldt titled "Notre Dame Professors Criticized for Comments Calling Pro-Life Activism Part of White Supremacy" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 19, 2019.
- An article by Laretta Brown titled "Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand Explains Her Support for Federal Recognition of a Third Gender" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 19, 2019.
- An article by Sahil Kapur titled "Warren Proposes Universal Child Care Plan Funded by Wealth Tax" was posted at [bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com) on Feb. 18, 2019.

- An article by Ken Blackwell (a black conservative) titled "Warren's Comments on Racism Fail Again" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2019.
- An article titled "Elizabeth Warren Backs Reparations for Black Americans" was posted at theweek.com on Feb. 21, 2019.

Irishman Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

- An article by Jon Wand titled "Why Was Beto O'Rourke [a White Man Who Lost in Texas] a National Phenomenon While Stacey Abrams [a Black Woman Who Lost in Georgia] Wasn't?" was posted at huffpost.com on Jan. 18, 2019.
- Looking back to October, an article by Will Weissert titled "Despite Everyman Image, Beto O'Rourke Twice As Wealthy As Ted Cruz" was posted at washingtontimes.com on Oct. 10, 2018.
- An article by Laretta Brown titled "Beto O'Rourke Says He Would 'Absolutely' Take the Border Wall in El Paso Down" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 15, 2019.
- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Gillibrand: Yeah I Could Support Tearing Down Existing Walls Too" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 16, 2019.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled "Oh, So Beto O'Rourke Is Coming Around to Border Walls Now?" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 20, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Itay Hod titled "USA Today Reporter Kirsten Powers Apologizes for 'Judgmental and Condemning' Tweets About Covington Students" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 18, 2019.
- An article by Tom Barnes titled "MAGA Hat Student Sues Washington Post for \$250M Over Coverage of Confrontation With Native American Man" was posted at independent.co.uk on Feb. 20, 2019.
- An article by Laretta Brown titled "Lara Logan Says Media Is 'Mostly Liberal' and It's Coverage of Trump Is a 'Distortion' of Real Life" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 18, 2019.
- An article by Tamar Auber titled "Lara Logan to Hannity: I'm Being 'Targeted' for Saying the Media Is 'Mostly Liberal' " was posted at mediate.com on Feb. 20, 2019.

General interest

- An article by John Rosevear titled "Guess Which Detroit Automaker Is Keeping Up With Toyota on Dependability? [General Motors]" was posted at yahoo.com on Feb. 14, 2019.
- An article by Hannah Fry titled "California Has Gotten 18 Trillion Gallons of Rain in February, With More on the Way" was posted at latimes.com on Feb. 19, 2019.
- An article by Alaa Abdeldaiem titled "Scottie Pippen on LeBron James: 'He's Not Even What Kobe Was As a Player' " was posted at si.com on Feb. 14, 2019.

■ An article by Alexis Mansanarez titled "Scottie Pippen Says LeBron James Doesn't Have Michael Jordan's 'Clutch Gene' " was posted at sportingnews.com on Feb. 14, 2019.



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."