

Eye on the World

May 4, 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 May 4, 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 Elisabeth Rolland and Jean-Louis Prevost titled "Unions, Leftwing Parties, Join 'Yellow Vests' March" was posted at yahoo.com on April 27, 2019. Following is the article.

Thousands of trade unionists and left wing activists joined "yellow vest" protesters in Paris Saturday [April 27] in rejecting French President Emmanuel Macron's proposed tax cuts as too little too late.

The march in the capital, organised by the militant CGT union, came ahead of the main rally in the eastern city of Strasbourg, where demonstrators clashed with police.

Veterans of the "yellow vest" movement, which started in rural France six months ago in opposition to planned rises in the diesel price and tax on pensions, led the Paris procession.

But in a new development, senior figures from the political left marched with them, including lawmaker Jean-Luc Melenchon, a political rival and vocal critic of Macron.

In the early months of the movement, which has ballooned into an anti-government rebellion with weekly marches drawing thousands, leading figures resisted attempts by parties on the far left or far right to get involved, fearing their cause would be hijacked.

Macron rolled back some of his more controversial measures within weeks of the first protest, and on Thursday announced more tax cuts and measures to help people on small pensions.

For his critics however, this came too late—and Macron remains under fire for refusing to reverse a cut in the “fortune solidarity tax” on high earners.

Clashes in Strasbourg

The interior ministry said 23,000 people demonstrated across France on Saturday [April 27], some 2,600 of them in Paris. The movement, however, estimated the turnout at over 60,000 nationally, and 9,000 in the capital.

The official figure was one of the lowest yet—at its height last November the movement drew 282,000 to Saturday marches countrywide, according to an official count.

In Strasbourg, police sealed off access to major European Union institutions in keeping with a local ban on protests in the city centre.

Clashes broke out after police blocked the protesters’ route to the European Parliament building. Some threw stones and bottles at riot police, who fired tear gas in turn.

Police also pushed back a group of activists, some masked and dressed in black, who tried to force their way to the Council of Europe building.

Local officials said about 2,000 people took part in the Strasbourg protests, with 42 arrested after protesters damaged property, setting fire to a car.

Three police officers, three demonstrators and a local resident were hurt in the clashes, and received medical treatment.

In the south, police fired tear gas in the city of Marseille where about 1,000 people turned out.

“The questions of social justice, the central question of the yellow vest movement, have not been addressed,” said 46-year-old Natacha, one of an estimated 1,500 demonstrators in Montpellier.

Extremist groups have issued calls on social media for yellow vest supporters to join forces with the so-called “Black Bloc”—radical activists blamed for some of the damage and violence that has marred the weekly protests—at May Day rallies in Paris next Wednesday [May 1].

According to interior ministry figures, 2,400 protesters and 1,700 law enforcers have been injured since the yellow vest movement started.



An article by Victor Davis Hanson titled “Why Go West?” was posted at nationalreview.com on April 30, 2019. Following is the article.

Immigrants see what is right about the West. That's why they come. And then too many critique the very system they left their homelands to join.

The harshest critics of the West in general and the United States in particular are the best arguments for it. Take the latest iconic critic, 29-year-old Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez. She has a predictable list of complaints against America, past and present.

Yet fortunately for her, her paternal grandparents and mother had experienced firsthand the antitheses of mainland America. And thus they were obsessed with what was right, not wrong, with the continental United States—and with getting there as quickly as possible. If they had once been critics of America, such animus was seemingly not great enough to prevent them moving to a place with a different language, ethnic majority, and traditions from those of their home, itself a territory of the U.S.

They apparently assumed that a free-market economy and transparent government gave them economic opportunities unknown in Puerto Rico, an otherwise naturally rich landscape. They wisely stayed in North America, apparently because they felt as supposed minorities that they would have far more cultural, social, political, and economic opportunities than they would as part of the majority in Puerto Rico.

The fact that her father was a second-generation immigrant and architect, that AOC herself grew up in affluent Westchester County, that she received scholarships to attend pricey Boston University, and that she was elected to Congress bore out her parents' correct assumptions of a meritocracy, not a caste state.

Mutatis mutandis, the same could be said of two other chronic ankle-biters of America, newly elected Representatives Ilhan Omar (D., Minn.) and Rashida Tlaib (D., Mich.). Their families correctly (but internally rather than publicly) had apparently once assumed that Muslims and the so-called nonwhite would enjoy a higher standard of living, more religious protection, and greater political freedom as minority citizens of the U.S. than as part of the majority in either Somalia or the Palestinian territories.

Omar and Tlaib both know that if they were to redirect commensurate animus to the government and society of Somalia or the Palestinian territories, their freedoms, if not their very lives, would be in danger.

Left unsaid is that their theoretical doppelgängers, would-be Christian emigrants, especially European Christians, would find no such reciprocal tolerance when they reached the Middle East or East Africa (and they therefore do not emigrate to such places).

That reality, along with a greater likelihood of personal security and material affluence, is why in a larger sense immigration is always a one-way street:

Those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America—the non-West—who are fed up always go westward. Very few disenchanting Westerners emigrate in the opposite direction; those who do are usually affluent and retired.

Transfer American paradigms from frigid Minnesota to warm Somalia, and Ilhan Omar would never have left Mogadishu. And put Somalian protocols in play in Minneapolis, and she and her family would never have set foot in America.

And the reason she seems unable to acknowledge that simple truth is also Western to the core—once a pampered Westerner gains the leisure, affluence, and security to critique the very system that provided these boons.

The West, then, transcends its place of birth precisely because its ideas, although they were born in Europe, were uniquely and logically able to spread and to transcend historical ethnic, racial, and religious bonds and to re-create Westernism, or at least major elements of it, almost anywhere and among anyone.

China rightly can be proud of its ancient and venerable traditions, but what propelled it into the 21st century was largely the adoption of Western technology and free-market economics, in a way antithetical to its prior paradigms.

Again, newcomers to the West, emulating the hipster progressive Left, sometimes lodge almost immediate complaints about Western civilization, usually the boilerplate that it is racist, biased, and sexist. But one wonders, given the tribal nature of man, compared with what? Is the West religiously intolerant compared with most of the Muslim world? If so, try building huge Christian cathedrals in Saudi Arabia as counterparts to the current new monumental mosques in Cologne and Rome.

Is the contemporary West racist compared with China? Japan? Sexist or homophobic in comparison to Iran? Prejudicial against the poor in a way not seen in Brazil or Mexico?

The irony of the Left's scripted charges of racism is that the West since Greek and Roman times was usually the least racist of cultures, at least in the sense that there were always voices, often powerful, objecting to instinctual majority tribalism.

Imperial Rome's cities on the shores throughout the Mediterranean were polyglot and multiracial, united not by claims of Italian ancestry, but by Roman law, science, custom, and tradition.

The racial hatred fostered by Hitler and his supposed übermenchen, by Franco and his notion of La Raza, and by Mussolini and La Raza were all fueled by disgust with what they perceived as the norms of European history, which since the Roman Empire had seen constant assimilations, integrations, and intermarrying of diverse peoples.

Hitler's pseudo-intellectuals had to resurrect Tacitus's Germania to "prove" that white Germans were never sullied by the core of Western civilization west of the Rhine and south of the Danube, as was true of Rome and Byzantium—suggesting again that the logic of Western civilization was never predicated on blood-and-soil chauvinism.

More important, the West, unlike most of the rest, is hypercritical of its own history, traditions, and institutions—sometimes nihilistically so. Unfettered skepticism, empiricism, and inductive dialectic—starting with the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, the sophists, Plato, and Aristotle, continuing with the Stoics and Epicureans, and then the Roman philosophers, and on through the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and the Reformation—are the West's great strength, whether expressed in scientific discovery, technological advancement, or social and political policy.

Yet when self-criticism for the sake of self-examination is done to excess either out of guilt, spoiled overindulgence, or mere intellectual gymnastics, it can become a liability, whether it's the sophists, the bankrupt imperial Roman elite, the Jacobins, or contemporary postmodernists who are lobbing the arrows. For an example, compare the world of Livy and Virgil with that of Petronius and Apuleius.

The resulting Western message that insidiously reaches non-Westerners can become paradoxical.

No sooner do the foreign poor and the oppressed reach their promised Western refuge than they are often assumed to be unsophisticated, unaware, unenlightened, and "unwoke" if they do not immediately press claims as "marginalized peoples" against a supposedly fatally flawed West—at least along the lines of the permanent complaints of affluent and free Americans, who have never experienced the real poverty, oppression, and insecurity of those fleeing Africa or Latin America.

The central paradox, indeed, the Achilles' heel, of the West has always been twofold.

- One, the marriage of market capitalism with unfettered freedom ensured by popular constitutional government creates untold affluence and leisure, leading to an excess that the Romans knew as *luxus*.

The result can soon lead to an unreality, in which the Westerner assumes that his bounty is limitless, that it is his birthright, and that it is on a trajectory that will soon ensure utopia—if the ignorant among us will just allow powerful elites to let pure, secular reason guide us.

The Western rational intellect supposedly can fathom all of the mysteries of the human condition. Perfection on earth is therefore attainable, and the flawed nature of man can be properly altered with requisite money, time, and education.

So, the impatient Western progressive, perennially frustrated and disappointed about stubborn human nature, is constantly rooting out imagined impediments to the rule of his god Reason. One cannot be merely good, when he can and should be perfect—or else.

- Second, freedom and equality, the twin pillars of Western society, are not necessarily always complementary. More often, they're at war with each other. The ancient compromise is tenuous since it accepts inequality as the price of personal liberty and freedom from an intrusive and inevitably totalitarian government.

Too often, Western arrogance about its undeniable accomplishments leads governments to imagine that once they make citizens equal politically and provide equality of opportunity, they can, to quote ancient philosophers, delude themselves into thinking that citizens can and must be equal in every aspect of their lives.

Such messianic rationalists seek absolute redistributive power. They insist that inequality can be addressed only by government-mandated material redistribution or coercion.

They scoff at a free market that can lead to a general community-wide affluence, in which the Western poor are considered well off by the standards of other systems. They mock the efficacy of religious and ethical empathy that encourages state and private help for the poor, philanthropy, and the responsibility of the strong and confident to help the weaker and meeker.

What enervates and often destroys Western societies, then, are not barbarians on the horizon, plagues, or invasions, but complacency and unreal demands put on society to reach utopian perfection.

Such efforts are contrary to human nature and often result in disastrous social and political policies, leading to impoverishment and collapse. The Hellenic polis, Rome, and Byzantium eventually eroded because each in its complacency forgot the very values that had created its successful cultures in the first place.

In other words, if the professed progressive utopian agendas of many current critics of the West had been realized in the past, then AOC's or Tlaib's parents would probably never have wished to head westward in the first place.

Give Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez her wish to recalibrate America, and no Puerto Rican would ever wish to immigrate to the American mainland again. And if America emulated the social, political, and economic norms south of the border, illegal immigration would end quickly.

After all, why flee from what you find intolerable to what you soon find intolerable?



"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 by Michael Safi titled "Muslims in Hiding in Sri Lanka As Tensions Rise After Bombings" was posted at theguardian.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Niharika Mandhana, Rob Taylor and Saeed Shah titled "Sri Lanka Bomber Trained in Syria With Islamic State" was posted at wsj.com on April 29, 2019.

- An article by Ram Yavne and Ari Ciicurel titled "Gaza's Deterioration is Making War With Israel More Likely" was posted at nationalinterest.org on April 27, 2019.
- An article by Chris Pleasance, George Martin, Miranda Aldersley and Chris Dyer titled "Venezuela's President Maduro 'Had a Plane on the Tarmac' Yesterday and Was Ready to Flee to Cuba Before Russia Intervened, US Claims After Tens of Thousands Hit the Streets in Support of His Rival Sparking Violent Clashes With Military" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on April 30, 2019.
- An article by Vatican News titled "Pope Sends Aid to Migrants Stranded at the US Border" was posted at vaticannews.va on April 27, 2019.
- An article titled "Australia's Plan to Kill 2 Million Feral Cats to Combat 'Extinction Crisis' Once Again in the Spotlight" was posted at yahoo.com on April 27, 2019.



An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "1,485 vs. 352: Abortions at or After 21 Weeks Outnumbered Homicides in NYC" was posted at cnsnews.com on April 29, 2019. Following is the article.

The number of babies aborted at a gestational age of 21 weeks or later in New York City in 2015 outnumbered homicide victims in that city that year by 1,485 to 352, according to the latest abortion data available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the homicide data for that year published by the New York Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

While there were approximately 0.96 people per day victimized by "murder and non-negligent manslaughter" in New York City in 2015, there were approximately 4.1 babies at 21-weeks gestational age or older who were aborted per day in the same city.

Despite this, the *New York Times* ran a story on Sunday that said abortions occurring at 21 weeks or later in the United States are "rare." It referenced and linked to another story the Times had published on Feb. 6 that referred to abortions occurring at 21 weeks or later as "very rare."

The story on Sunday criticized President Donald Trump for what it called "the latest in a long string of incendiary statements from the president on abortion."

The Feb. 7 story criticized Trump for things he said about abortion in his State of the Union Address. These statements from Trump included: "Lawmakers in New York cheered with delight upon the passage of legislation that would allow a baby to be ripped from the mother's womb moments from birth. These are living, feeling, beautiful babies who will never get the chance to share their love and their dreams with the world."

And: "To defend the dignity of every person, I am asking Congress to pass legislation to prohibit the late-term abortion of children who can feel pain in the mother's womb."

Trump's statement about New York lawmakers referred to the "Reproductive Health Act" that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed in January.

In its Feb. 6 story, the *New York Times* summarized that law this way: "The new state law says a health provider may perform an abortion in the state before 24 weeks—and later if the fetus is not considered viable or if the procedure is considered necessary to protect the woman's life or health. Those are all similar to stipulations made by the Supreme Court."

In fact, in its 1973 opinion in *Doe V. Bolton*, which was released at the same time as *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court broadly defined the "health" consideration needed to justify an abortion to include such things as "physical, emotional, psychological, familial" factors "and the woman's age."

Neither *the Times* story published in February nor the one published Sunday cited the actual number of late-term abortions that took place in the United States or in New York City in 2015.

In its story published Feb. 6, *the Times* said: "How common is it? Very rare. The most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that about 1.3 percent of abortions performed in the United States in 2015 occurred in or after the 21st week of pregnancy."

In its April 28 story, which linked to the Feb. 6 story, *the Times* said: "*The New York Times* has previously fact-checked these claims, finding that late-term abortions are rare."

The CDC data *the New York Times* referenced in its Feb. 6 story, when it said "about 1.3 percent of abortions performed in the United States in 2015 occurred in or after the 21st week of pregnancy," was published in Table 7 of the CDC's report, "Abortion Surveillance—United States, 2015."

That report, released on Nov. 23, 2018, includes the most recent abortion data published by the CDC.

Table 7 lists the number of abortions performed by gestational age in 39 states and New York City, which were the 40 jurisdictions that reported their 2015 abortions by gestational age to the CDC.

A footnote attached to Table 7 says eleven states and the District of Columbia were not included in the table's data on abortions by gestational age because, as the CDC put it, they "did not report, did not report by gestational age, or did not meet reporting standards."

These non-reporting states included California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York State, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Unlike New York State, which did not report its abortions by gestational age, New York City did.

In New York City and the 39 states that reported their abortions by gestational age, there were 428,042 total abortions at a known gestational age in 2015, according to the CDC.

Of these, 5,597 were performed on babies 21-weeks gestational age or older.

The 5,597 babies aborted at 21-weeks gestational age or older equaled 1.3 percent of the total of 428,042 babies aborted in the 39 states and New York City that reported their abortions by gestational age.

In New York City, there were 63,610 total abortions at a known gestational age in 2015. Of these, 1,485—or 2.3 percent—were performed on babies 21-weeks gestational age or older.

The 1,485 babies aborted at 21-weeks gestational age or older in New York City in 2015 equaled about 4.1 per day in a 365-day year.

Both the New York City Police Department and the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division have reported the number of "murders and non-negligible manslaughters"—n.b. homicides—committed in New York City in 2015. They both reported it was 352.

Therefore, for each person victimized by a homicide in New York City in 2015 (352), there were 4.2 babies (1,485) 21-weeks gestational age or older who were killed in that same city in what *the New York Times* called a "very rare" abortion.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Justice Kavanaugh and GMU Snowflakes" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on April 24, 2019. Following is the article.

George Mason University's Antonin Scalia Law School hired Supreme Court Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh to co-teach a course this summer called Creation of the Constitution.

The course will be held 3,668 miles away, in Runnymede, England, where the Magna Carta was sealed 800 years ago. Some George Mason University students and faculty have become triggered.

One student told George Mason's Board of Visitors, "It has affected my mental health knowing that an abuser will be part of our faculty."

Another said, "The hiring of Kavanaugh threatens the mental well-being of all survivors on this campus."

The Washington Post reports that a petition to fire Kavanaugh has gathered almost 3,500 signatures and has the endorsement of George Mason Democrats. GMU students have created separate forms for parents and alumni to pledge that they will not donate to the university so long as Kavanaugh is teaching.

Part of student demonstrations included defacing a statue of the university's namesake George Mason by putting blue tape on his mouth and attaching anti-Kavanaugh signs.

The university's spokesman Michael Sandler gave *The College Fix* a mealy-mouthed excuse saying, "We allow students to dress up the statue, so this doesn't violate any policies that I'm aware of." He said the university "strongly supports freedom of expression and this would seem to fall into that category."

His vision suggests that freedom of expression includes defacing university property.

Youngsters with little understanding might be forgiven for their protest of a U.S. Supreme Court associate justice sharing his wisdom with law students.

But faculty members cannot be excused. Professor Bethany Letiecq, the head of the George Mason chapter of the American Association of University Professors, endorsed a call by UnKoch My Campus, another leftist group, for a congressional investigation of GMU's law school's hiring of Justice Kavanaugh as an adjunct faculty member.

Fortunately for civility, Dr. Angel Cabrera, the university's president, said that there were no legitimate grounds for an investigation by the university.

He threw a bit of pabulum to the protesters by saying: "I respect the views of people who disagreed with Justice Kavanaugh's Senate confirmation due to questions raised about his sexual conduct in high school. But he was confirmed and is now a sitting Justice."

Considering that a college president is also a politician, that statement demonstrates good judgment.

According to *The College Fix*, after listening to the student protestors speak during the board meeting, Cabrera and Board of Visitors rector Tom Davis said they were proud of the students and appreciated that they spoke up and acted as engaged citizens. That's nonsense.

I receive many questions from people around the nation who are surprised by the happenings at GMU.

As I have advised on numerous occasions, George Mason University erroneously earns a reputation as a conservative/libertarian university because of its most distinguished and internationally known liberty-oriented economics department, which can boast of two homegrown Nobel laureates in economics. Its Antonin Scalia Law School has a distinguished faculty that believes in personal liberty and reveres the U.S. Constitution—unlike many other law schools that hold liberty and our Constitution in contempt.

The rest of the university is just like most other universities—liberal, Democratic Party-dominated.

■ The chief difference between my GMU colleagues and liberals at some other universities is that they are polite, respectful and congenial, unlike what one might find at places like U.C. Berkeley or University of Massachusetts.

GMU students and faculty may also be disturbed about what Justice Kavanaugh is going to teach.

In the course, Creation of the Constitution, he will explain how much the Magna Carta influenced the founders of our nation. The 1215 Magna Carta limited the power of central government and it forced a reigning monarch to grant his English subjects rights. It contained a list of 63 clauses drawn up to limit King John's power, resulting in making royal authority subject to the law instead of reigning above it.

It laid the foundations for limited constitutional governments, an idea offensive to most leftists.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Charity Question" was posted at patriotpост.us on April 27, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

It figures that once Robert Mueller and his band of merry Hillary supporters failed to discover a bromance between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin, Trump-haters in Congress and the media would begin once begin beating the drums, demanding that the President release his income tax returns.

Offhand, I don't recall which idiot started all this nonsense about disclosing tax information, but I'm against it. Okay, maybe I'm not against it so much as I'm against it being limited to presidents and presidential candidates. If everyone needs to see those returns, why not the returns of those running for every public office in the land? After all, governors, mayors and even city council members, very often have a more direct effect on my life than this president or any president has.

What's more, if we're going down this road, I'd like to see the returns of those who are paid to report the news. Wouldn't it be interesting to see if those who rail the loudest against fossil fuels, guns and the military-industrial complex, own stock in Shell, Remington Arms and/or Boeing?

■ Millionaire Bernie

Bernie Sanders was the first of those vying to run against Donald Trump in 2020 to share his tax records with us. I suspect he's at least a little surprised to be pilloried for being a millionaire. But what did he expect after spending years calling millionaires and billionaires the human plague?

But, surely, even he must have expected to lose a few supporters after admitting that he saw no reason why he should pay the feds even a nickel more than he was legally obliged to pay. So much for paying his fair share.

Apparently, it's only all those other rich guys who should be squeezed like oranges so that their wealth could be re-distributed among the party faithful.

■ Bernie, Kamala and Beto

Some people have even taken Bernie to task for donating a mere pittance of his earnings to charity. But I don't. I really don't think it's any of my beeswax what someone else does with his money. Two other people I think it's safe to say won't be attacking him, at least on those grounds, are Kamala Harris and Beto O'Rourke.

That's because Sen. Harris only contributed 1.4% of her earnings to charities and Beto kicked in a scant one-third of 1%. But, then, skateboards aren't as cheap as they used to be.

■ Split delegates

As more and more Democrats enter the competition for their party's presidential nomination, the more likely it becomes that no single candidate will arrive at the convention with the requisite number of delegates to ensure his or her nomination.

If, for instance, Joe Biden shows up with 30%, Sanders arrives with 25%, and the other 4,000 contenders, including Harris, O'Rourke, Booker, Castro, Gillibrand, Klobuchar, Buttigieg and Swalwell, divide the other 45% between them, how do you imagine it will be resolved?

■ Michelle to the rescue?

Unless I miss my guess, there's only one person who could help the party avoid a true blood-letting and could unite the various factions in the mission to defeat Donald Trump. And that person, God help us, is Michelle Obama!

■ Many uses of petroleum

Joe Neuner has grown as weary as I have of listening to dunces like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey carrying on as if the only uses for gas and oil are to power planes and cars and to heat our homes, so that once we all come to our senses and quit depending on anything other than wind and solar, we'll all be residing in the new, improved, snake-less Garden of Eden.

As Mr. Neuner patiently points out, there are thousands of everyday items that require petroleum in their production. What's more, without that other left-wing bugaboo, coal, you can't produce coke, and without coke, you can't manufacture iron or steel.

One 42-gallon barrel of oil creates 19.4 gallons of gasoline. The other 22.6 gallons goes into producing the plastic that goes into our cars, our computers, our toys and, until very recently, our straws. Asphalt is a petroleum product, as is synthetic rubber, as are fertilizer, pesticides, detergents, furniture, ballpoint pens, motorcycle helmets, skis, epoxy paint, electrical tape, fishing rods, lipstick, soft contact lenses, fan belts, artificial limbs, hearing aids, etc.

■ Not a paradise

You get the idea. A world without fossil fuels wouldn't be paradise, it would be hell. Just the opposite of what a world without liberals would be.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Trump the Magnificent" was posted at patriotpost.us on April 29, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

There is a terrific scene in "An American in Paris" in which my friend Oscar Levant got to give full vent to his sizable ego. In his daydream, Levant's character fantasizes a concert in which he is not only the conductor and the pianist but gets to play every instrument in the orchestra and, at the end of the performance, is seen in a box seat, giving himself a standing ovation.

I think President Trump has earned his own standing ovation for the way he's played the Democrats. After years of people like Pelosi, Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Ben Cardin, A O-C, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, telling us that those who sneak across our border are better, more honest and harder-working, than American citizens, Donald Trump essentially said: "Okay, you want them, you can have them. What's more, I'll provide transportation in order to make it easier for them to reach those sanctuary cities and states that are so eager to have them that Democratic mayors and governors are happy to provide them with immunity from criminal prosecution."

But instead of applauding his offer, they question his good intentions and accuse him of playing politics and using the Central Americans as mere pawns.

By taking the approach the Democrats have chosen, they have played right into Trump's hands. They appear to be unaware that they're coming across like a spoiled kid kicking Santa Claus in the shins because he delivered a brown pony with white spots instead of a white pony with brown spots.

But for those who love irony, there's a lot to be said for Democrats showing their true colors. For those who hate hypocrisy, however, there's a lot that should be said about those who have used illegal aliens as chess pieces for decades suddenly condemning Trump for doing the same.

■ Didn't criticize Obama

Funny, but when President Obama dumped thousands of Muslims in places like Lewiston, Maine; Hazelton, Pennsylvania; Saginaw, Michigan; and Minneapolis, Minnesota, I don't recall the Democrats accusing him of treating human beings like pawns. Could the reason possibly be that 80,000 Somalis in Minnesota turned Minneapolis's 5th congressional district into a cesspool where Muslim Keith Ellison could quit the House to run for state attorney general and be replaced by the loathsome Ilhan Omar?

■ Obama avoided rich areas

But even Obama knew better than to dare move a bunch of illiterate Islamists into places like Boston's Beacon Hill, New York City's Upper East Side, San Francisco's Pacific Heights or L.A. County's Beverly Hills, because those are the places where the Left's not-so-tolerant donor class live and where their Mexican nannies raise their children.

■ Poison the President?

While those in the ranks of the far-Left media are constantly calling Donald Trump on the carpet for his alleged lack of civility, the *Boston Globe* ran an op-ed article calling for those in the Resistance Movement to poison the President and those of us who support him.

■ Bezos most influential

Jeff Bezos owns Amazon and the *Washington Post*. That just might be enough to make him the single most influential individual in the ranks of the Never-Trumpers, unless, of course, George Soros wishes to argue the point.

■ Amazon didn't pay

That must be the explanation for why those who are forever insisting that the superrich pay their fair share of income taxes never raise a stink when, for the second straight year, Amazon, with earnings of \$223 billion, didn't pay a nickel to Uncle Sam.

■ Conservative shouted down

The most recent Conservative speaker to be shouted down on a college campus was Michael Knowles for the crime of insisting there are actual differences between men and women. Apparently, questioning sexual dogma is not permitted at the University of Missouri, Kansas City, where a number of the perpetually confused members of the LGBTQ community showed up to take part in the modern reenactment of Galileo's heresy trial.

Back then, Galileo's crime was questioning the Catholic Church's insistence that the Sun revolved around the Earth. These days, defending biology against the barbarians has no place on college campuses. Mainly, that's because college chancellors like Missouri's C. Maui Agrawal are themselves biological freaks, homo sapiens who lack even the semblance of a spine.

As bad as going through life without a backbone is, imagine the hardship of managing without a brain or a conscience.

■ Illegals, but not soldiers

That's the pathetic plight of the Democrats serving in New York's State Legislature. How else to explain that shortly after voting to spend \$27 million to help pay the college tuition for the offspring of illegal aliens, they shot down a proposal to do the same for the children of American soldiers who have been killed or severely injured while serving in the military.



An article by Kerri Anne Renzulli titled "Here Are the 15 Jobs Disappearing the Fastest in the US" was posted at cnbc.com on April 28, 2019. Following is the article.

The average job in the U.S. will expand its workforce by 7% through 2026, but not all industries will be lucky enough to be adding staff in the future.

About 17% of the 818 occupations the Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks will actually lose more workers than they add between 2016 and 2026. The number of metal and plastic machines workers is expected to drop 9% in that decade. While other careers, such as locomotive firers, typists and postmasters will suffer a worse fate.

The following 15 occupations will experience the biggest decline over the next seven years, losing more than a fifth of all their workers.

■ 15. Hand-grinding and polishing workers

Median annual wage: \$29,550.

Projected job growth through 2026:—20 percent.

These workers grind, sand and polish a variety of metal, wood, stone, clay, plastic or glass objects using hand tools or hand-held power tools.

■ 14. Coil winders, tapers, and finishers

Median annual wage: \$34,400.

Projected job growth through 2026:—21 percent.

These workers assist in creating electric and electronic products such as resistors, transformers, generators, and electric motors by winding the wire coils of electrical components. Improved processes, tools, and increased automation are expected to make this manufacturing sector more efficient and, thus, require fewer workers.

■ 13. Postmasters and mail superintendents

Median annual wage: \$75,970

Projected job growth through 2026:—21 percent

These federal workers handle the operational and administrative services of a post office. A combination of automated sorting systems, cluster mailboxes and tight budgets will drastically reduce the number of all postal workers working by 2026, according to the BLS. Add in the fact that more people are opting for electronic bill pay and email to handle tasks that once only went through the mail and the demand for these services isn't what it once was.

■ 12. Data-entry keyers

Median annual wage: \$32,170.

Projected job growth through 2026: -21%.

These workers are responsible for inputting information into electronic or digital systems using data entry devices, such as keyboards or photo composing perforators. They may also need to verify the data entered and prepare materials for printing.

■ 11. Mine shuttle-car operators

Median annual wage: \$56,340.

Projected job growth through 2026: -22%.

These workers operate diesel or electric-powered shuttle cars in underground mines to transport materials from the working face of a mine to mine cars or conveyors.

■ 10. Telephone operators

Median annual wage: \$37,240.

Projected job growth through 2026: -23%.

These workers provide information to customers by consulting alphabetical, geographical or other directories and assist with special billing requests, such as charges to a third party and credits or refunds for incorrectly dialed numbers or bad connections. Some may also handle emergency calls or help children or people with physical disabilities make telephone calls.

■ 9. Computer operators

Median annual wage: \$45,840.

Projected job growth through 2026: -23%.

These tech workers monitor electronic data-processing equipment, respond to operation and error messages and may enter commands at a computer terminal and set controls on computers and peripheral devices.

■ 8. Metal pourers and casters

Median annual wage: \$37,730.

Projected job growth through 2026: -23%.

These workers operate hand-controlled mechanisms to pour and regulate the flow of molten metal into molds to produce castings or ingots. Technological advances in the machinery used in this process will lower demand for human workers, as will the continued competition from manufacturing industries face from foreign companies for orders from U.S. customers.

■ 7. Foundry mold and core makers

Median annual wage: \$35,430.

Projected job growth through 2026: -24%.

These workers make or form wax or sand cores or molds used in the production of metal castings in foundries. The number of positions is expected to drop because of improvements to and increased usage of labor-saving machinery and the fact that many U.S. manufacturers have moved their production to foreign countries.

■ 6. Motor vehicle electronic-equipment installers and repairers

Median annual wage: \$35,590.

Projected job growth through 2026: -26%.

These workers install and repair the sound, security and navigation equipment used in vehicles. As car companies continue to roll out models with more advanced sound, security, entertainment and navigation systems, these workers receive fewer calls since these higher-quality new systems typically require less maintenance and upkeep than previous models did.

■ 5. Watch repairers

Median annual wage: \$39,910.

Projected job growth through 2026: -30%.

As the name suggests, these workers repair, clean, and adjust timing-keeping instruments, such as watches and clocks. The popularity of smartphones likely diminished people's need for other time tracking devices.

■ 4. Word processors and typists

Median annual wage: \$39,750.

Projected job growth through 2026: -33%.

These office workers type up letters, reports, forms or other material from rough drafts, voice recording, or other documents using either a word processor, computer or typewriter. Some may also perform other clerical duties commonly done by secretaries and other administrative assistants.

■ 3. Parking enforcement workers

Median annual wage: \$39,840.

Projected job growth through 2026: -35%.

These workers patrol an assigned area, such as a parking lot or city street, and issue tickets or citations to cars parked illegally or cars that have overstayed their parking time limit.

■ 2. Respiratory therapy technicians

Median annual wage: \$51,210.

Projected job growth through 2026: -56%.

These healthcare workers assist respiratory therapists and physicians in caring for patients who have trouble breathing, maybe because of a chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma or emphysema.

■ 1. Locomotive firers

Median annual wage: \$63,820.

Projected job growth through 2026: -79%.

In the next couple of years, more than three-quarters of the people who hold this title will be fired or laid off. Firers monitor tracks and train instruments checking for dragging equipment, obstacles on the tracks, and other potential safety problems. But very few trains will keep them on, as a lot of their work has become automated or is now done by the locomotive engineer or conductor.



An article by Kerri Anne Renzulli titled "The 10 Highest-Paying Jobs You Can Get Without a College Degree All Pay More Than \$79,000" was posted at cnbc.com on April 24, 2019. Following is the article.

Landing a job that will pay you more than \$75,000 a year doesn't require an MBA. In fact in many cases, it doesn't necessarily require a bachelor's degree.

Forget four-plus years of college studying and thousands in student loans, there are dozens of occupations that reward them workers for skills gained outside the classroom. The key is knowing where to find these roles and how to prepare for them.

CNBC Make It analyzed data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to find the 10 occupations that pay workers the largest salaries and don't require college coursework, an associate's or a bachelor's degree as a qualification for employment. Of course, that doesn't mean you're done learning after high school. Many of these roles demand extensive on-the-job training, certifications, or licenses.

Each of these top-paying roles will earn a worker more than \$79,000 a year—that's double the typical annual earnings of someone with a high school diploma, which is about \$37,024 a year, according to the BLS.

If you want to earn into the high five figures without a college degree, consider one of these 10 occupations:

■ 10. Media and communication equipment workers

Median annual wage: \$79,580.

Projected job growth through 2026: 8 percent.

In-demand in the movie and film industry, these workers install, maintain and repair audio and visual systems in businesses and homes. They also typically train customers in how to use the equipment appropriately.

Breaking into this role requires only a high school diploma, though those with experience in electrical installation and repair or those with a certification in a related field may find it easier to get hired. Workers will need short-term on-the-job training.

■ 9. Power plant operators

Median annual wage: \$79,610.

Projected job growth through 2026: 1 percent.

Power plant operators control and maintain the machinery used to generate electricity and distribute power among generators. They must also correct voltage and flows to meet changing consumer demands depending on the time of day.

Becoming a power plant operator typically requires a high school diploma as well as several years of on-site training and experience. You may also need to obtain a certification through the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's System Operator Certification Program, if your work could affect the power grid.

■ 8. Elevator installers and repairers

Median annual wage: \$79,780.

Projected job growth through 2026: 12 percent.

These workers install, fix, and maintain elevators, escalators, moving walkways, chairlifts and other lifts. Elevator repairers typically earn a little more as their job requires a greater knowledge of electronics, hydraulics and electricity than do installers, since a large part of maintenance and repair work is troubleshooting.

Becoming an elevator installer or repairer starts with a four-year apprenticeship program sponsored by a union, industry association or individual contractor. To enter such a program, you'll need a high school diploma. Even after the program, on-going training is required and 35 states, currently, require an installer or repairer to be licensed.

■ 7. Powerhouse, substation, and relay electrical and electronics repairers

Median annual wage: \$80,200.

Projected job growth through 2026: 4 percent.

Also known as powerhouse electricians, relay technicians or power transformer repairers, these workers specialize in inspecting, maintaining and repairing all electrical equipment used in power generating stations, substations and in-service relays.

Becoming one will require a high school diploma, though many employers prefer applicants who have also taken courses in electronics at a community college or technical school. In addition to such schooling demands, workers in this field usually start their career as an electrician in order to gain the experience needed for this role.

■ 6. Detectives and criminal investigators

Median annual wage: \$81,920.

Projected job growth through 2026: 5 percent.

These types of law enforcement officers collect evidence and gather facts for criminal cases. They conduct interviews, examine records, observe the activities of suspects and participate in raids and arrests. They typically specialize in one type of crime such as homicide or fraud and work on a case until an arrest and trial are completed or the case is dropped.

To become a detective, you'll need at least a high school diploma, although many federal agencies and some police departments do require some college coursework or a college degree.

■ 5. Commercial pilots

Median annual pay: \$82,240.

Projected job growth through 2026: 4 percent.

These pilots handle unscheduled flight activities, such as aerial application, charter flights and aerial tours. Some, known as corporate pilots, transport company executives. They are also typically responsible for other non-flight duties such as scheduling flights, arranging for maintenance of the aircraft and loading luggage.

To become one, you'll need a commercial pilot's license and high school diploma. Most commercial pilots complete their training with independent FAA-certified flight instructors or at schools that offer flight training.

■ 4. Power distributors and dispatchers

Median annual wage: \$86,410.

Projected job growth through 2026: -3 percent.

Also known as systems operators, these workers control the flow of electricity as it travels from generating stations to substations and users. They monitor current converters, voltage transformers, and circuit breakers over a network of transmission and distribution lines as well as resolve problems such as transformer or transmission line failures.

To become a power plant distributor or dispatcher, you'll need a high school diploma combined with several years of onsite training and experience. Those whose work could affect the power grid may require certification through the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's System Operator Certification Program.

■ 3. First-line supervisors of police and detectives

Median annual wage: \$89,030.

Projected job growth through 2026: 7 percent.

More commonly known as patrol sergeants, police captains or police sergeants, these law enforcement workers earn a premium thanks to their management role directly supervising and coordinating the activities of a police force. It is their responsibility to ensure that cases and procedures are conducted correctly according to the law. They may also train new staff.

To graduate to this level, an officer needs a high school diploma as well as plenty of on-the-job training.

■ 2. Nuclear power reactor operators

Median annual wage: \$94,350.

Projected job growth through 2026: -10 percent.

These workers control nuclear reactors. They adjust control rods to affect how much electricity a reactor generates and monitor reactors, turbines, generators and cooling systems.

Nuclear power reactor operators typically only need a high school diploma, though the role does require extensive on-the-job training. Workers usually start as equipment operators working under more senior employees and also receive formal technical training to prepare for their license exam from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

■ 1. Transportation, storage, and distribution managers

Median annual wage: \$94,730.

Projected job growth through 2026: 7 percent.

These managers oversee the allocation and shipping of merchandise in the most cost and time-efficient manner. They plan, direct and coordinate all transportation of goods to ensure correct distribution.

To enter this role, you'll typically need a high school diploma and at least five years of experience working in a related field.



“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.

Green New Deal

■ An article by Emily Zanotti titled "Study: Green New Deal Would Have 'No Effect' on Climate Change" was posted at dailywire.com on April 29, 2019.

Illegal immigration

■ An article by Caitlin Dickson titled "Judge [Shelley Richmond Joseph of Massachusetts] Indicted for Allegedly Sneaking Immigrant Out of Courthouse to Thwart ICE" was posted at yahoo.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article titled "Migrants Protest After Hundreds Escape From Mexican Detention Center" was posted at yahoo.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Timothy Meads titled "'Catch and Release' Continues As An Estimated 7,000 Illegal Aliens Have Been Dumped Into Tucson in Past Eight Months" was posted at townhall.com on April 28, 2019.

■ An article by Stephen Dinan titled "Pentagon Approves 320 Troops for Illegal Immigrant Babysitting Duties" was posted at washingtontimes.com on April 29, 2019.

■ An article by Catherine E. Shoichet titled "Judge Rules Milia Leader [Larry Mitchell Hopkins] Should Remain Jailed As He Awaits Trial" was posted at cnn.com on April 29, 2019.

Comments about weapons

■ A Reuters article by Roberto Rampton titled "Trump Pulling U.S. Out of U.N. Arms Treaty, Heeding NRA" was posted at reuters.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Joe Sommerlad and Chris Riotta titled "Trump News: President Says US Is 'Taking Our Signature Back' From UN Arms Trade Treaty, Claiming Guns 'Make Our Communities Safer' " was posted at independent.co.uk on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Kyle Mizokami titled "The Gun Glock and Sig Sauer Should Fear: Meet Smith & Wesson's M&P Shield 2.0" was posted at nationalinterest.org on April 26, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Margaret Talev, Bill Allison and Jennifer Jacobs titled "Trump Playing Defense in Rust Belt [Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania] As He Opens Re-Election Bid" was posted at bloomberg.com on April 27, 2019.

■ An article by Alan Fram titled "GOP Hoping Voters Open to Warnings of Democrats' Socialism" was posted at apnews.com on April 29, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Paul Blumenthal titled "Joe Biden Raised \$6.3 Million in His First 24 Hours in the Race" was posted at huffpost.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Aamer Madhani titled "Joe Biden, 76, Says He Has No Plans to Limit Himself to One-Term in the White House" was posted at usatoday.com on April 29, 2019.

■ An article by Emily Larsen titled "Botox, Hair Plugs, and Veneers: Biden Could Escape the Cosmetic Surgery Scrutiny Hillary Clinton Endured" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Zack Budryk titled "Sanders Suggests Disney Should Use 'Avengers' Profits to 'Pay All of It's Workers a Middle Class Wage' " was posted at thehill.com on April 29, 2019.

Kamala Harris

■ An article by Tim Hains titled "Gingrich: Kamala Harris Is Most Likely to Win Democratic Presidential Nomination" was posted at realclearpolitics.com on April 29, 2019.

■ An article by Michael Mathes titled "Despite Record Diversity, 70-Something White Men Rule 2020 Race" was posted at yahoo.com on April 27, 2019.

■ An article by Kyung Lah titled "Kamala Harris Chooses Women of Color to Drive Her Campaign" was posted at cnn.com on April 24, 2019.

Buttigieg Ahead of O'Rourke?

■ An article by Ed Kilgore titled "Is Beto Losing His Mojo? Did Mayor Pete Steal It From Him?" was posted at nymag.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Jenna Johnson titled "Beto O'Rourke Switches His Style and Tone As the Spotlight Dims" was posted at washingtonpost.com on April 27, 2019.

Harris and Buttigieg

■ An article by Peter Savodnik titled "'It's a Different World Now': Will Hollywood Dump Kamala for Mayor Peter?" was posted at vanityfair.com on April 28, 2019

News about the media

■ An article by Tom Elliott titled "In Lieu of Comedy, WHCD [White House Correspondents' Dinner] Opens With Dark Sermon on Trump Endangering Journalists" was posted at graben.com on April 27, 2019.

■ An article by Bill D'Agostino titled "Today's Media Demand Trump's Impeachment, But Were Stauchest Opponents During 90s" was posted at newsbusters.org. on April 30, 2019.

General interest

■ An article by Stacey Plaisance titled "New Orleans at 'Crossroads' As Newly Homeless Numbers Rise" was posted at apnews.com on April 26, 2019.

■ An article by Mike Snider titled "More Than 56 Tons of Ground Beef [From K2D Foods Doing Business As Colorado Premium Foods in Carrollton, Georgia]"

Recalled in E. Coli Outbreak , Now Spanning 10 States” was posted at usatoday.com on April 28, 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.”