

Eye on the World

Jan. 4, 2020

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 Jan. 4, 2020.

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 Sheila Tobben and Grant Smith titled "Oil Soars As U.S. Killing of Iran General Stirs Fear of Conflict" was posted at bloomberg.com on Jan. 3, 2020. Following is the article.

Oil surged toward a 3 1/2-month high as attention turned to Iran's threatened retaliation for the U.S. airstrike that killed the Islamic Republic's top general.

Brent futures rose 3.5% on Friday, the highest since the attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities in September. The airstrike near Baghdad airport killed Qassem Soleimani, the Iranian general who led the Revolutionary Guards' Quds force. The U.S. intends to send "thousands of additional" troops to the Middle East amid rising regional tensions, CNN reported, citing an unidentified U.S. defense official.

"This is a seismic event in the region," said Jason Bordoff, a former Barack Obama administration official who now works for Columbia University. "This is how U.S.-Iran tit-for-tat spirals out of control. Iran's response will be severe and deadly. And certainly may include escalating attacks on energy infrastructure."

Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in an interview with state TV said the Islamic Republic's response to the U.S. killing the country's top military commander will come "at any time and by any means."

Prices eased somewhat as swelling U.S. gasoline and diesel inventories offset the biggest crude decline since June. The Energy Information Admin-

istration also reported record-high crude exports, which pulled Gulf Coast stocks down by the most ever. Stockpiles in the region often decline at year-end as companies manage tax exposure.

The EIA report couldn't have pushed prices up more than what the Middle East attacks triggered, said Rob Thummel, managing director and portfolio manager at Tortoise, a Kansas firm that oversees more than \$21 billion in assets. "From here on the market will be watching for disruptions to global supply."

The rally also drew selling from oil producers looking to lock in higher prices, something that typically happens in the first quarter, according to a person familiar with the matter. Several million barrels were sold for specific contracts as well as in time spreads, the person said.

Brent crude for March settlement rose \$2.35 a barrel to \$68.60, after rising as much 4.9% earlier. The global benchmark's bullish options bias was the biggest since early November while the December 2020 contract was at the widest premium to December 2021 since October 2018.

West Texas Intermediate for February delivery added \$1.87 to settle at \$63.05 a barrel, after advancing as much as 4.8%.

While no oil installations or production were affected, targeting one of Iran's most powerful generals ratchets up tension between Washington and Tehran, heightening fears of an armed confrontation that could pull in other countries. Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, vowed that "severe retaliation" awaits the killers of Soleimani.

Tensions have been building after an Iran-backed Iraqi militia stormed the American embassy in Baghdad to protest deadly U.S. airstrikes earlier this week.

Concerns in the region, home to five of OPEC's biggest oil producers, have persisted over the past year as Saudi Arabia's energy facilities as well as several foreign tankers in and around the Persian Gulf have been attacked.

The attack on Soleimani rattled other markets. The S&P 500 Index and the Stoxx Europe 600 Index slid, while gold neared a six-year high as investors sought safe haven assets.

The strike also escalates an already tense three-way situation between the U.S., Iran and Iraq. The two Middle East countries combined pumped more than 6.7 million barrels a day of oil last month, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, more than one-fifth of OPEC output. Exports from both countries rely on the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow and crucial oil and natural gas shipping choke-point.

"This is more than just bloodying Iran's nose," Stephen Innes, chief market strategist at AxiTrader Ltd., said in a note. "This is an aggressive show of force and an outright provocation that could trigger another Middle East war."

Still, the rally could just as easily subside. While prices initially soared after the attack on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq processing facility in September, crude then retreated in another sign that the market is concerned more with a surplus than supply shortages.

OPEC is sitting on vast amounts of spare capacity after reducing supplies for most of the past three years. Consuming countries from the U.S. to China control millions of barrels stored in strategic petroleum reserves that can be deployed to offset any shortage.

In the biggest sign of the oil market's transformation after the shale boom, the U.S. reported its first months as a net exporter of petroleum, including crude and refined oil products, late last year for the first time in roughly 75 years. In October, America exported a net 389,000 barrels a day, compared with net imports of close to 9 million barrels a day a decade or so earlier.



An article by Kenny Fisher titled "The Day After Brexit—More Trouble Ahead?" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 2, 2020. Following is the article.

The long and painful Brexit saga appears to finally be at an end, barring some unforeseen shocking development.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson gambled that a snap election would end the stalemate in Britain's parliament, and he won big, with a resounding election victory. Johnson can now fulfill his campaign promise to leave the EU at the end of January.

However, the friction and acrimony between the UK and the EU are likely to continue, as the sides must negotiate a free-trade deal, as the UK leaves the single market after 46 years.

The transition period, which commences on February 1st, gives the sides only 11 months to hammer out a comprehensive trade agreement. EU officials say that such a time period will suffice only for a 'bare bones' agreement and want an extension.

However, Boris Johnson insists that a deal can be reached by the end of 2020, and is showing little patience for the EU's position. If no deal is reached by the end of 2020, then the UK and EU would trade on World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

Given the close economic integration between the two economies, failure to reach a deal in time would lead to cross-border disruption and would have a negative impact on the UK and eurozone economies.

The Canadian model

It's unclear what type of free-trade agreement the EU and UK will work out. Prime Minister Johnson has said that he would like a deal that is "on the model of a super Canada plus arrangement."

This is a reference to the EU's free trade deal with the EU, known as CETA. This agreement eliminates most tariffs but does not remove any regulatory restrictions. This means that Canadian exports must undergo custom checks when arriving in EU ports.

Johnson wants a deal with the EU to cover goods and services and to include mutual recognition of standards.

On the assumption that the EU agrees to Johnson's proposal (which is not a given), it is difficult to see how a comprehensive agreement could be inked in just 11 months.

The CETA agreement required seven years of negotiations until it was signed in 2017. The gap between London and Brussels over the time period for the talks already appears wide – Johnson wants to wrap up the deal in 11 months, while the EU's guidelines on negotiating trade agreements state that "reaching an agreement usually takes several years."

It appears that after the Brexit divorce, we could see plenty of acrimony between London and Brussels, as the sides seem headed to a clash over the post-divorce arrangement. This could spell trouble for both the British pound and the euro.



An article by Campbell Robertson and Elizabeth Dias titled "United Methodist Church Announces Plan to Split Over Same-Sex Marriage" was posted at nytimes.com on Jan. 3, 2020. Following is the article.

A group of leaders of the United Methodist Church, the second-largest Protestant denomination in the United States, announced on Friday a plan that would formally split the church, citing "fundamental differences" over same-sex marriage after years of division.

The plan would sunder a denomination with 13 million members globally—roughly half of them in the United States—and create at least one new "traditionalist Methodist" denomination that would continue to ban same-sex marriage as well as the ordination of gay and lesbian clergy.

It seems likely that the majority of the denomination's churches in the United States would remain in the existing United Methodist Church, which would become a more liberal-leaning institution as conservative congregations worldwide depart.

A separation in the Methodist church, a denomination long home to a varied mix of left and right, had been brewing for years, if not decades. It had become widely seen as likely after a contentious general conference in St Louis last February, when 53 percent of church leaders and lay members voted to tighten the ban on same-sex marriage, declaring that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

"We tried to look for ways that we could gracefully live together with all our differences," Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey of Louisiana said. After last year's conference, she said, "it just didn't look like that was even possible anymore."

In the months following, Bishop Harvey and 15 other church representatives came together in an informal committee that determined separation was "the

best means to resolve our differences, allowing each part of the church to remain true to its theological understanding.”

The United Methodist Church is only the latest denomination to be roiled with intense and exhausting theological disputes over the place of L.G.B.T. members and clergy. Such fights have led to an exodus of congregations from Presbyterian and Episcopal churches in recent years, and pushed young evangelicals and Catholics to leave the pews as well.

Representatives from the Methodists’ wide-ranging factions, including church leaders from Europe, Africa, the Philippines and the United States, hammered out the separation plan during three two-day mediation sessions held at law offices in Washington. The negotiations largely centered on how to allocate the church’s significant financial assets and how to craft a separation process.

Once the agreement is written in more granular detail, it must be approved when the denomination meets for its global conference in Minneapolis in May. The initial response from some conservatives and liberals after the announcement suggests its passage is likely.

“The solution that we received is a welcome relief to the conflict we have been experiencing,” said the Rev. Tom Berlin, who represented groups that opposed discrimination against L.G.B.T. people in the mediation. “I am very encouraged that the United Methodist Church found a way to offer a resolution to a long conflict.”

Conservatives, who seemed to have the upper hand after the vote tightening a ban on same-sex marriage, would get \$25 million once their new denomination is formed and incorporated. All current clergy and lay employees of the denomination, even if they affiliate with the traditionalists, will get to keep their pension plans.

“It is not everything that we would have hoped for, but we think it is a good agreement that gets us out of the decades-long conflict that we have experienced and enables us to focus on ministry in a positive way,” said Tom Lambrecht, vice president of Good News, one of the conservative groups.

The factions agreed to allocate \$39 million to support “communities historically marginalized by the sin of racism,” according to the agreement. That sum includes \$13 million the traditionalists contributed instead of receiving as part of their portion.

Despite the deep doctrinal disputes that led to the split, the negotiations were “largely secular: process, governance, finances,” said Kenneth R. Feinberg, the lawyer who helped craft the thorny settlements that arose from the 2010 BP oil spill and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

“I’m the last person in the world who’s going to help the parties resolve their doctrinal differences,” said Mr. Feinberg, who assisted in the church’s mediation on a pro bono basis.

Local churches will choose whether to join any new traditionalist denomination or remain in the United Methodist Church. Several people interviewed on Friday believed that most American churches would stay, though there has not been any formal survey.

While a plurality of American Methodists consider themselves conservative, according to the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study in 2014, six in 10 believe that homosexuality should be accepted and nearly half favor same-sex marriage.

At many of the church's regional conferences this past summer—in states like Florida, Georgia and Texas—members responded to last year's vote by electing delegates for the upcoming global conference who largely supported including gays and lesbians in the full life of the church.

"There was a clear message; it is almost like what happened in St. Louis was not reflective of the majority in the United States," Bishop Kenneth H. Carter of Florida, the president of the church's Council of Bishops and a member of the mediation team, said of the response to last year's vote. "That church just awakened."

Methodism in the United States dates to the early 1700s, with a long history of valuing local congregations over a top-down structure. It has split many times, most notably over slavery before the Civil War. Membership is varied demographically and politically, counting as adherents everyone from Hillary Clinton to Jeff Sessions.

Americans make up a diminishing share of the United Methodist Church's global membership, and are projected to soon be a minority, if they are not already.

While they are leaving the church, congregations overseas are growing rapidly, particularly in Africa; there are nearly 3 million members in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These groups tend to be more conservative than the typical American Methodist, which in part explains the vote in St. Louis, where more than 40 percent of delegates were from outside the United States.

Bishop Carter, the president of the Council of Bishops, said that while he had long advocated unity of the church, his own thinking shifted during the mediation process.

"It could not be a unity at someone's expense," Bishop Carter said. "There is a kind of unity that oppresses persons. It was just as obvious as we went along that we were going to look structurally different in the future."

Though the traditionalists won the narrow vote in 2019, it is the progressives who will remain under the banner of the United Methodist Church. This was a topic of extensive conversation among the committee, Bishop Harvey said, though she said the conservatives seemed as if they had been making preparations to leave for some time.

The Wesleyan Covenant Association, a more conservative network of orthodox Methodist laity, clergy and churches, had been preparing for such a contingency for years, said its president, the Rev. Keith Boyette.

"People of all theological perspectives have grown very weary of the conflict and don't have a vision for how it can end," he said.

And while he profoundly disagrees with the "centrists and progressives" on certain matters, he said, people cannot be compelled to leave the Methodist church. So the traditionalists are agreeing to do so voluntarily.

"I believe that our witness and message is much more important than a name," he said, estimating that about a third of American churches could follow.

For those remaining, the future already looks different. After the vote last year to disallow gay clergy, candidates for ordination like Chet Jechura were devastated. Mr. Jechura, 30, who recently became engaged to his boyfriend and who serves at Foundry United Methodist in Washington, first felt the call to preach when he was 12, and he had spent years trying to find a church that would fully accept him.

When the plan was released on Friday, Mr. Jechura read it carefully and decided to take time to reflect on what it all meant. He thought of the spiritual practice he has started with his fiancé: naming one hope or joy every morning.

This day, he said, "I do feel hope for the people called Methodist."



"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.

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- An article by Vladimir Isachenkov titled "New Russian Weapon Can Travel 27 Times the Speed of Sound" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 27, 2019.
 - An article by Dimitri Simes titled "Iranian Regime Hails Joint Naval Drills With Russia and China" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 29, 2019.
 - An article titled "Iran-Backed Militia Attacks U.S. Embassy in Iraq" was posted at bloomberg.com on Jan. 1, 2020.
 - An article by Qassim Abdul-Zahra and Zeina Karam titled "US Kills Iran's Most Powerful General in Bghdad Airstrike" was posted at apnews.com on Jan. 2, 2020.
 - An article titled "Tens of Thousands Rally in Iran Capital Against US 'Crimes' " was posted at france24.com on Jan. 3, 2020.
 - An article by John Leicester titled " 'A More Dangerous World': US Killings Trigger Global Alarm" was posted at apnews.com on Jan. 4, 2019.
 - An article by Maggie Michael titled "Libya to Mobilize Civilians After News of Turkish Deployment" was posted at apnews.com on Jan. 2, 2020.
 - A Reuters article titled "Indonesia Rejects China's Claims Over South China Sea" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 1, 2020.
 - A Reuters article titled "Islamic State Says It Beheaded Christian Captives in Nigeria" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 27, 2019.
 - An article by Samy Magdy titled "Fleeing War, Poverty, African Migrants Face Racism in Egypt" was posted at apnews.com on Jan. 1, 2020.

- An article by Amy Qin titled "In China's Crackdown on Muslims, Children Have Not Been Spared" was posted at nytimes.com on Dec. 29, 2019.
- An article by Steve Doughty titled "Muslim Population of England Passes the Three Million Mark for the First Time As the Number of Christians Continues to Decline" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Jan. 3, 2020.
- An article titled "Germany Shuts Nuclear Plant As It Phases Out Atomic Energy" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 31, 2019.
- An article by Tristan Lavalette titled "Australian Prime Minister Is Jeered in Wildfire-Ravaged Zone" was posted at apnews.com on Jan. 1, 2020.



An article by Allen West titled "What the Progressive Socialist Left Is Really Saying" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 23, 2019. Following is the article.

Here we are, the end of another year, 2019. As always there will be many reflections back on the year, high and low moments. And so, I offer my reflection upon this past year, especially as we head into 2020.

I like the fact that the coming year is 2020; it is indeed a pivotal year for our Constitutional Republic. And the numbers 2020 have a significant meaning: it denotes clear vision. Upon reflecting on 2019, and looking forward, clearly, into 2020, it is imperative that we see the progressive socialist left for who they are . . . and understand what they are really saying.

Words do truly have meaning, but sometimes the real meaning of the words being uttered requires focused discernment.

Recently, during this impeachment inquisition, we heard the leftists repeatedly using the word "Constitution."

I found it rather striking that the same people who believe our Constitution is irrelevant, a document written by old white men, slave owners, would suddenly find our rule of law meaningful.

Well, the progressive socialist left does not, and what they really meant by using the word "Constitution" was just a regurgitated talking point to their desired end. Somehow the folks who cast aside our rule of law for their ideological agenda wanted us to believe that they cared about the Constitution . . . "it is our constitutional duty."

How interesting that statement is when just across the Potomac in Virginia, there are Democrat [Socialist] elected officials who are advocating for deploying the State's National Guard to deprive Americans of their Second Amendment, Constitutional, right?

As well, the progressive socialist left fully supports sanctuary states and cities, in other words, casting aside their constitutional duty to protect the

sovereignty of these United States for the purpose of embracing open borders and criminal illegal immigration.

These same individuals, leftists, aided by their complicit media accomplices, see nothing wrong with the violation of Fourth Amendment individual rights by a secret court, especially if the targets of that court are their political opposition.

I could go on, but just know, as we head into 2020, when the left talks about the Constitution, they are really saying, it is just a poll tested talking point.

Speaking of rule of law, another of the famed leftists' sayings from this year was, "no one is above the law." Well, what the progressive socialist left is really saying is that no one is above our ideological agenda, and desire for control, power.

It is perfectly fine if you are aligned with the left in America to be under investigation and destroy evidence, government property . . . you know, like 30K emails go missing or bleach bit files and destroy hard drives.

It is perfectly fine for a leftist political campaign to search out a former intelligence officer of a foreign country who colludes with another foreign country to provide a false document, which is wrongly used to justify surveillance, spying, on American citizens. Ahh, that is perfectly fine, acceptable.

For the progressive socialist left, you can be as above the law as you want, if you are attacking your political opposition. After all, that is what ol' Saul Alinsky asserted in the leftist playbook, "Rules for Radicals."

Another of the famed leftist sayings from 2019 was, "we believe the women," what the left is really saying is that we believe the women who accuse our political opposition. Women who accuse, present factual allegations, against progressive socialist men are to be discounted, denigrated, disparaged, and disregarded.

And we all know that is the case when you do the comparative analysis of Christine Blasey Ford, Julie Swetnick, and Deborah Ramirez in the case of Brett Kavanaugh against the women who brought allegations against Bill Clinton, Keith Ellison, and the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia.

Heck, for the left, conservative women are not even real women.

Just last week, some of us, according to the TV ratings, not too many, watched another boring Democrat [Socialist] presidential debate.

Again, we hear the same ol' tired rhetoric that, "the economy is not working for all Americans," a recent poll said that 76% of Americans believe the economy is working well for Americans. The other 24% were probably the ones in the audience watching the debate.

What the progressive socialist left is really saying is that unless we nationalize the economy and enact our wealth redistribution policies, which fail, the economy is horrible.

What the left needs, wants, are victims. They do not want to see Americans economically empowered; they must have economic enslavement . . . so they can decide who gets what, free college, free healthcare.

And, as we go into 2020, you can expect the progressive socialist left to talk a lot about voter suppression—really?

Here is what the progressive socialist left means, only we can enact voter suppression, after all, that is the history of the Democrat [Socialist] party.

It all started for them with the creation of the Ku Klux Klan, the ultimate voter intimidation organization. It continues today with such groups as the New Black Panther organization who back in 2008 stood outside polling locations, armed, and the Obama administration did nothing.

The Democrat [Socialist] party gave us poll taxes and literacy tests. Today, they give us “ballot harvesting,” and I know a little about voter fraud. Isn’t it perplexing how in California, Republicans can win an election but lose it weeks later as ballots are found in questionable places?

Now we have the progressive socialist left granting drivers’ licenses to illegal immigrants, meaning that they have a picture ID...so they can vote! That is the real voter suppression, suppressing the legitimate vote of American citizens.

- The left says they are for tolerance, what they really mean is that they are intolerant of anything of which they do not agree.

- The left said impeachment was a “solemn” endeavor, yet they cheered and threw parties in their offices, and even one journalist lifted a toast to “Merry Impeachmas.”

- The left says they hate fascists, while they destroy property and protest any speaker that is not a leftist.

- The left says “Trump is a racist” while they support an organization, Planned Parenthood, founded by a racist, white supremacist, who spoke at KKK rallies.

Going into the year 2020, let us clearly see the progressive socialist left for who they are, and discern what they are saying. We no longer have to guess, they are emboldened enough to tell us.



An article by Michelle Malkin titled “Jill Biden, Meet Cpl. Ronil Singh and Deputy Brian Ishmael” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 26, 2019. Following is the article.

The last time I checked, Joe Biden was running for president of the United States. But his wife, Jill Biden, demonstrated where the Beltway Democratic couple’s allegiance and compassion are rooted this Christmas season: Mexico.

Biden traveled to a camp in Matamoros on the southern border this week bearing gifts and meals for Central American migrants—all hoping to trespass across the border illegally or exploit our asylum system with the help of “Open Borders Inc.” profiteers. Biden was accompanied by the executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley.

Holiday spirit or something else? Follow the money; find the truth.

For Catholic Charities, mass illegal and legal migration is a billion-dollar business. The behemoth nonprofit is a prime contractor for the Unaccompanied Alien Children racket created by President Obama, and it's one of the nine lucrative government contractors for refugee resettlement.

Its single largest source of "revenue": the federal government. Taxpayers. You and me. Nearly 60 federal agencies fork over money to Catholic Charities, as well as international donors from the European Union to the United Nations to the governments of Austria, Columbia, El Salvador, Germany, Honduras, the U.K. and the World Bank.

Wall-bashing Pope Francis met with the U.N. secretary general to deliver a joint holiday message condemning opposition to the refugee camp explosion as a "sin." The moral preening of border-busting elites who live behind gilded gates with 24/7 armed guards is unholy.

"Heart-breaking," Biden sniffed, as she doled out goodies to those whom she undoubtedly hopes will be her husband's future constituents. It's "not who we are," she intoned.

Now, lean in and listen more closely. Do you hear that? Yes, the silence. I'm talking about the thick, impenetrable wall of silence built by Catholic officials and Democratic leaders in the face of American suffering caused by immigration chaos.

Dec. 26 marks the anniversary of the brutal murder of Cpl. Ronil Singh at the hands of a Mexican gang member here illegally who was protected by "sanctuary policies" that obstruct local, state and federal cooperation on immigration enforcement.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Biden had nothing to say about the dedicated Newman Police Department hero's sacrifice as they bemoaned the plight of illegal immigrants last year.

As Singh's widow, Anamika Singh, told President Trump in May at the Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service:

"You're the only one who reached out and gave your condolences to the family. And it means a lot to all of our law enforcement families that are here for the sacrifice that my husband and his brothers in blue and sisters in blue have given. So I want to thank you for that. And every family sitting out here wants justice for what happened to their loved ones. And that's what I want for my husband."

Heartbreaking. Soul-shattering. Country-destroying. The pain and grief of American Angel Families do not subside as the quest for justice drags on.

A liberal California judge postponed the preliminary hearing for Singh's accused illegal immigrant gangbanger killer, who was aided by several other border fugitives, until next year. Singh left behind his young wife and newborn baby.

Instead of red and green, the hard-hit community of Newman is decorated in blue and black to remember their friend, mentor and fellow patriot's legacy of protecting and serving. The same thin blue flags banned in the radical sanctuary of Montgomery County, Maryland, proudly line Main Street in the town Singh patrolled.

Like Singh's family, the loved ones of El Dorado County (Calif.) Sheriff's deputy Brian Ishmael will also mark this Christmas without their husband, father and friend. Ishamel was gunned down in October in the line of duty responding to a 911 call on an illicit pot operation involving an illegal immigrant drug ring. He left behind his wife and three young children.

Sanctuary Governor Gavin Newsom, who skipped Singh's funeral, did not attend Ishamel's funeral, either.

No Hollywood tributes poured in. No grandstanding debate moderators demanded that presidential candidates respond to their suffering or say their names.

Putting American lives first and American law enforcement officers first and American children separated from their fathers first, after all, is not who they are.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Colleges Dupe Parents and Taxpayers" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Jan. 1, 2020. Following is the article.

Colleges have been around for centuries. College students have also been around for centuries. Yet, college administrators assume that today's students have needs that were unknown to their predecessors.

Those needs include diversity and equity personnel, with massive budgets to accommodate.

According to *Minding the Campus*, Penn State University's Office of Vice Provost for Educational Equity employs 66 staff members.

The University of Michigan currently employs a diversity staff of 93 full-time diversity administrators, officers, directors, vice provosts, deans, consultants, specialists, investigators, managers, executive assistants, administrative assistants, analysts and coordinators.

Amherst College, with a student body of 1,800 students employs 19 diversity people.

Top college diversity bureaucrats earn salaries six figures, in some cases approaching \$500,000 per year.

In the case of the University of Michigan, a quarter (26) of their diversity officers earn annual salaries of more than \$100,000. If you add generous fringe benefits and other expenses, you could easily be talking about \$13 million a year in diversity costs.

The Economist reports that University of California, Berkeley, has 175 diversity bureaucrats.

Diversity officials are a growing part of a college bureaucracy structure that outnumbered faculty by 2 to 2.5 depending on the college.

According to “The Campus Diversity Swarm,” an article from Mark Pulliam, a contributing editor at Law and Liberty, which appeared in the City Journal (10/10/2018), diversity people assist in the cultivation of imaginary grievances of an ever-growing number of “oppressed” groups.

Pulliam writes: “The mission of campus diversity officers is self-perpetuating. Affirmative action (i.e., racial and ethnic preferences in admissions) leads to grievance studies. Increased recognition of LGBTQ rights requires ever-greater accommodation by the rest of the student body. Protecting ‘vulnerable’ groups from ‘hate speech’ and ‘microaggressions’ requires speech codes and bias-response teams (staffed by diversocrats). Complaints must be investigated and adjudicated (by diversocrats). Fighting ‘toxic masculinity’ and combating an imaginary epidemic of campus sexual assault necessitate consent protocols, training, and hearing procedures—more work for an always-growing diversocrat cadre. Each newly recognized problem leads to a call for more programs and staffing.”

Campus diversity people have developed their own professional organization—the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. They hold annual conferences—the last one in Philadelphia.

The NADOHE has developed standards for professional practice and a political agenda, plus a Journal of Diversity in Higher Education, which is published by the American Psychological Association.

One wonders just how far spineless college administrators will go when it comes to caving in to the demands of campus snowflakes who have been taught that they must be protected against words, events and deeds that do not fully conform to their extremely limited, narrow-minded beliefs built on sheer delusion.

Generosity demands that we forgive these precious snowflakes and hope that they eventually grow up. The real problem is with people assumed to be grown-ups—college professors and administrators—who serve their self-interest by tolerating and giving aid and comfort to our aberrant youth.

Unless the cycle of promoting and nursing imaginary grievances is ended, diversity bureaucracies will take over our colleges and universities, supplanting altogether the goal of higher education.

“Diversity” is the highest goal of students and professors who openly detest those with whom they disagree. These people support the very antithesis of higher education with their withering attacks on free speech.

Both in and out of academia, the content of a man’s character is no longer as important as the color of his skin, his sex, his sexual preferences or his political loyalties.

That’s a vision that spells tragedy for our nation.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Shock Value, Swedish Style” was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 28, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

The less relevant people or institutions are, the further they're willing to go in order to garner attention. I've seen it with aging movie directors. Whereas Alfred Hitchcock often leavened his suspense thrillers with humor and even romance, when he became an old shadow of his younger, better self, he began turning out crapola like "Frenzy" and "Torn Curtain," movies that escalated violence and gore in hopes of attracting an audience.

Most recently, we have seen it happen with magazines. *The New Yorker* was once famous for its writers and cartoonists. People would pick up every issue, knowing they would read the latest work of James Thurber, J.D. Salinger, John O'Hara and Truman Capote and see cartoons by Peter Arno, Charles Addams, William Steig and Gahan Wilson. Today, it's just another schlock magazine that shoehorns some snarky comments about President Trump even into book and movie reviews.

But, possibly the most desperate example of attempting to hang in there even when their subscriptions are probably fewer than mine is *Time* magazine. Before TV and the Internet made it as passé as high button shoes, it served a purpose. In breezy fashion, it covered the news of the past week in every field from art and books to medicine and industry.

These days, it is so frantic to make news instead of report it, they made fools of themselves by naming 16 year old Swedish scold Greta Thunberg their Person of the Year. Of course if this were a different time and a different *Time*, the magazine would probably have selected President Trump or the brave demonstrators defying the Chinese despots by carrying the American flag in the streets of Hong Kong.

In its typical understated way, in announcing its youngest ever selection, the magazine declared, with a presumably straight face: "She has succeeded in creating a global attitudinal shift, transforming millions of vague, middle-of-the-night anxieties into a worldwide movement calling for urgent change. She has offered a moral clarion call to those who are willing to act, and hurled shame on those who are not."

It turns out that even though she is only 16, Ms. Thunberg has been worried sick about this stuff since she was eight. Not too surprisingly, she was diagnosed at the age of 11 with Asperger syndrome, found to be obsessive-compulsive (OCD) and suffering from something called selective mutism. But brave little scout that she is, she insists: "It's not an illness, it's a super power!"

Once again, the question arises when someone is certifiably nuts whether it's a case of nature or nurture. Was she born with this massive ego or did others spread the manure which allowed it to reach such gargantuan proportions? Although I'm not a board-certified psychiatrist, I often play one on my computer. My considered opinion is that in this teenager's case, it was both.

Her mother, Melena Ernman gave up her career as a successful opera singer because Greta shamed her over her frequent travel on airliners. Talk about a guilt trip. Her father, Svante Thunberg, is a sometime actor who has appar-

ently traded it in for a career as his daughter's manager.

Little Greta has also managed to make her family go vegan for the sake of the planet. The snarling teenage bully has said that it was her family's compliance with her orders that has given her hope for the planet's future. Apparently, the clincher came when she accused her parents of being part of the conspiracy to "steal her future."

I make no claim to being the reincarnation of Nostradamus, but after making the cover of *Time*, I'm guessing that a Nobel Peace Prize can't be far behind.

■ Not theft unless

In typical California fashion, our legislature has fallen even deeper into the world of insanity by passing a law that nobody can be jailed for car theft unless the owner can prove that he had locked it. Otherwise, presumably, the legislators regard it as an attractive nuisance and theft is therefore inevitable. I assume that at a later session, they will also require that home owners prove that all their doors and windows were locked and barred before burglars will be prosecuted. As for rape victims, it only stands to reason they will have to prove they were wearing chastity belts and that the rapist cut the lock before he entered the premises.

■ The polls hurt the Democrats

The House continues down the path to impeach the President. The Democrats swear it pains them to do it, but their commitment to protecting America demands they carry out their solemn duty.

But, as the polls show, after watching these schmoes spend three years trying to dig up a crime that justifies removing Donald Trump from office, most Americans have decided it's the Democrats who should be committed to an institution for the criminally insane.

■ Wanted impeachment from day 1

The House Democrats are accusing the President of abuse of power. But what they really mean is use of power. It pains me to admit it, but the Democrats were smarter than I was back in 2016. They wanted Trump impeached from Day One. I recall at the time wondering why they were so upset. Heck, most of them hated Hillary Clinton as much as I did. After all, I assumed that Trump would be another Bush-like nonentity. He turned out, as we've discovered, to be Ronald Reagan on steroids, but how the heck did those morons know?

■ Releasing criminals

In California, we keep releasing criminals from prison because the jails, we're told, are too crowded. The obvious solution would be to build more prisons, but California liberals don't like prisons because, inevitably, most of the inmates wind up being black and Latino gangbangers.

Because, when I'm not acting as a psychiatrist, I moonlight as a merchan-

dising guru, my plan is to sell the idea by calling it low-cost housing for the poor. Well, of course, it would be mainly for poor criminals. But who the heck ever reads the small print?



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "All the Idiots Aren't Democrats" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 30, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

It pains me when I have to blow the whistle on Republicans, but some of them have it coming, and I'm not just talking about phonies like Mitt Romney, Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski.

It was only a few weeks ago that I was ruing the fact that even a last minute rally by President Trump in Kentucky fell just short of helping Governor Matt Bevins win re-election.

■ Reasons for Bevins failing

Now my ruing is officially over and I'm wondering if there's a way to bring Bevins up on charges.

It seems that as a farewell gift to the people of the commonwealth, Bevins has pardoned or commuted the sentences of 428 felons. One can only interpret it as a bitter political hack giving the finger to the folks who were wise enough not to let him have another four years in the governor's mansion.

Just some of the beneficiaries were a murderer whose family had ponied up \$20,000 to help Bevins pay off his campaign debt; a child rapist; a creep who hired a hitman to kill his business partner; and another who had murdered his parents.

Even Bill Clinton didn't have this sordid a list of despicable when he granted executive pardons on his way out of the White House.

I can only hope that the new Democratic governor can prove that Bevins actually accepted direct bribes in exchange for his new-found leniency, so that he can take the place of some creep he released from prison.

■ Boris Johnson victory

In case you missed the news, Boris Johnson won a resounding victory in the recent parliamentary elections in Great Britain. Johnson, a Conservative that many people take for a Mini-Me version of Donald Trump won so decisively that his Labor Party rival has resigned and will now be able to join Teresa May wherever it is that failed British politicians go to lick their wounds.

■ Italy and Greece as well

It finally appears that after nearly four years of dithering, Great Britain will finally be able to exit the European Union. An English friend of mine, a Conservative, predicts that Italy and possibly Greece will soon follow. And the

hope of many is that once the wall begins to crack, other nations will join them and that the stranglehold that the bureaucrats in Brussels have had on the continent will be broken and national sovereignty will return to the defectors.

■ Second amendment

As a subscriber to *The New American*, I am accustomed to reading its regular "Exercising the Right" page in which news stories from around the U.S. recount incidents in which people have protected their homes, themselves and their loved ones, all thanks to the Second Amendment.

I have long wondered why the NRA has never made a series of commercials in which these men, women and even teenagers, would relate the harrowing situations in which they found themselves and how having a loaded gun made all the difference between whether they lived or died.

It now occurs to me that as much as that would shine a spotlight on the necessity of protecting the Second Amendment from the encroachment of the anti-gun zealots, the NRA is playing a different game. I now suspect that rather than ever go on the offensive, the organization prefers playing defense so that every time some schmuck like Michael Bloomberg or Dianne Feinstein condemns the NRA, the NRA can use the attack to raise more money.

Cynical? Perhaps. But what other reason do they have not to tell the personal stories of would-be victims and instead constantly pretend that they are the real victims?

When I ran this past a very bright friend of mine, he suggested that perhaps the NRA didn't have enough money. I countered that with five million dues-paying members, they should be pretty flush. Besides, the emotional impact of these feel-good stories would move a lot of fence-sitters to start supporting the Second Amendment.

Also, the commercials would no doubt increase the group's membership rolls and the NRA's ability to receive charitable contributions. The spots wouldn't have to run as often as Mike Lindell's MyPillow commercials, perhaps just once a month. It is even possible that Mr. Lindell would help under-write the costs, especially if the commercials included the suggestion that the only thing that guarantees you a better night's sleep than one of his terrific pillows is one with a loaded gun underneath it.

■ Founding fathers were revolutionaries

Every Conservative is aware of the fact that our Founding Fathers were divinely-inspired when it came to creating this Republic. What sometimes escapes our attention is that they were a bunch of revolutionaries. Those guys fought a war. They didn't just stand around wearing wigs and making memorable speeches. They bled and died and made their enemies bleed and die.

Something else that often escapes our attention is that ours was and remains the one revolution in which those who were overthrown weren't replaced by people who were even more contemptible.

Whether those who were ousted were kings, czars or run-of-the mill dictators, life only became worse once they were exiled or, more often, killed.

■ French Revolution is not the ideal

For some reason, the French Revolution is often held up as an ideal. But you would have to be someone like Jeffrey Dahmer to regard Robespierre to be the moral superior of King Louis XVI. Robespierre introduced the guillotine to the world and used it indiscriminately to behead royals, priests and everyone else who voiced an objection to his butchery.

It's fortunate that he was so enamored of the invention because it wasn't long before his political rivals used it on him.

In the aftermath of what came to be known as the Reign of Terror, Napoleon, a Corsican, swooped in, took control over the ensuing chaos and set out to conquer Europe.

■ Communist revolutions

Not every revolution is quite as bloody as France's, but when you consider what the Communists have done in gaining control of Russia, China, Iran and Cuba, it's hard not to long for the good old days before Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin replaced Nicholas II; Mao Tse-tung replaced Chiang Kai-shek; the Ayatollah Khomeini replaced Shah Reza Pahlavi; and Fidel Castro replaced Fulgencio Batista.

This isn't to argue that the despots who were deposed were good guys, but the sheer numbers of those murdered by the revolutionists dwarfs those who suffered at the hands of the earlier brutes.

■ The target is the president

But what we are currently seeing taking place in America is something new, frightening and inexplicable. For the first time, we are seeing millions of people engaged in a revolt in which the target is not an oppressor but is, instead, a president who won a free and fair election and has not assumed dictatorial powers, although his enemies have insisted without a shred of evidence that he has.



"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 Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Decade of Debt: Federal Debt Up More Than \$10 Trillion in 2010s" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 31, 2019.

Finances

■ An article by Stephen Moore titled "Dems and Media Peddle Doom, But the Middle Class Never Had It So Good" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 30, 2019.

Trade war

■ An article by Dan Charles titled "Farmers Got Billions From Taxpayers in 2019, and Hardly Anyone Objected" was posted at npr.org on Dec. 31, 2019.

Green New Deal

■ An article by Dominique Mosbergen titled "Germany's Angela Merkel Vows to Put All Her Energy Into Fighting Climate Change" was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 30, 2019.

■ An article by Dalvin Brown titled "Can't Park at An Electric Charging Station? Volkswagen Is Working on an Autonomous Robot to Juice Your Battery" was posted at usatoday.com on Dec. 30, 2019.

■ An article by Colin Beresford titled "The Ride Into Our Electric Future Will Be Led by Bikes" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 31, 2019.

Illegal immigration

■ An article by Mary Papenfuss titled "Pastor Tries to Reassure Immigrants Fearing Deportation at Trump Megachurch Rally" was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 30, 2019.

■ An article by Beth Baumann titled "Nothing Says 'Happy New Year' Quite Like Giving Taxpayer-Funded Health Care to Illegal Aliens" was posted at townhall.com on Jan. 1, 2020.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Steven M. Collins titled "A Gun Control 'Civil War' Imminent in Virginia?" was posted at stevenmcollins.com on Dec. 31, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled "U.S. Consulate Warns Employees As Gun Battles Rock Mexican Border City [of Nuevo Laredo]" was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 2, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Gabrielle Sorto titled "Tulsi Gabbard Says Impeachment Has Increased Chance of Trump Reelection: 'A Disaster for Our Country' " was posted at aol.com on Dec. 31, 2019.

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled "Nikki Haley: 'We Responded With Strength, Not Fear' to Iranian Threat" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 3, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled "Pelosi Condemns Trump's 'Provocative and Disproportionate' Airstrike Killing Top Iranian Commander" was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 3, 2020.

■ An article by Craig Bannister titled "Actress Rose McGowan Begs Iran: 'Please Don't Kill Us'—'We Are Being Held Hostage by a Terrorist Regime' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Jan. 3, 2020.

- An article by Jason Duaine Hahn titled "Joe Biden Would Consider Barack Obama for Supreme Court 'If He'd Take It' " was posted at people.com on Dec. 31, 2019.
- An article by Ronald Radosh titled "Bernie Sanders Could Be the Nominee, and It Would Be An Epic Nightmare for Democrats" was posted at thedailybeast.com on Jan. 2, 2020.
- An article titled "Ocasio-Cortez Accepted Campaign Donation From Billionaire Despite Railing Against Rich" was posted at foxnews.com on Dec. 27, 2019.
- An article by Tim O'Donnell titled "Data Shows Voters Who Disapprove of Trump Are Likely to Support Any Democratic Opponent—Even If They Don't Like Them Either" was posted at theweek.com on Dec. 28, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by David Choi titled "CNN Trounced by Hallmark Channel in Holiday Ratings Blitz, While Fox News Continues Viewership Streak" was posted at businessinsider.com on Dec. 28, 2019.
- An article by Steven Nelson and Tamar Lapin titled "Donald Trump Doubled His Tweets in 2019" was posted at nypost.com on Dec. 31, 2019.
- An article by Jeffrey M. McCall titled "News Media Take Losing Streak Into 2020" was posted at thehill.com on Jan. 2, 2020.

General interest

- An article titled "Heavy Security Presence at MetLife Stadium As Thousands in Jewish Community Celebrate Siyum HaShas" was posted at cbsnewyork.com on Jan. 1, 2020.



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."