

Eye on the World

Dec. 14, 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 Dec. 14, 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 Melanie Arter titled "Saudi National Student Kills 3, Injures 8 in Shooting at Naval Air Station in Pensacola" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 6, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

A Saudi national opened fire on a classroom at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., on Friday [Dec. 6], killing three people and wounding eight others.

Base commander Capt. Timothy Kinsella said at a press conference Friday that the gunman was a student who was receiving aviation training at the time.

Hundreds of international students receive aviation training at the base, the Navy Times reported.

President Donald Trump was briefed on the shooting and spoke to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

"Just received a full briefing on the tragic shooting at NAS Pensacola in Florida, and spoke to @GovRonDeSantis. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families during this difficult time. We are continuing to monitor the situation as the investigation is ongoing," the president tweeted.

Trump said that Saudi Arabia called to offer condolences to the victims and their families.

"King Salman of Saudi Arabia just called to express his sincere condolences and give his sympathies to the families and friends of the warriors who were killed and wounded in the attack that took place in Pensacola, Florida," the president tweeted.

"The King said that the Saudi people are greatly angered by the barbaric actions of the shooter, and that this person in no way shape or form represents the feelings of the Saudi people who love the American people," he added.



An article by Conrad Duncan titled "Trump Criticized for Rush to Defend Saudis After Pilot Kills Three at US Navy Base: 'He's a Spokesman for Saudi Arabia'" was posted at independent.co.uk on Dec. 8, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Donald Trump has been criticized for "parroting" Saudi Arabia's defense after a Saudi gunman killed three sailors at a Florida navy base.

Mohammed Alshamrani, who was training at the base, opened fire on Friday [Dec. 6] at the Naval Air Station Pensacola, killing three and injuring at least eight other people before he was shot dead.

The attack has brought attention to the US' decision to train Saudi military officers after anti-US tweets from an account appearing to match Alshamrani's identity were found.

However, Mr. Trump has appeared to be unusually disinterested in uncovering the circumstances around the attack and swiftly defended Saudi Arabia.

The president told reporters that officials in Saudi Arabia are "devastated" by the incident and "the king [King Salman] will be involved in taking care of families and loved ones."

His response has been questioned by foreign policy experts who have accused Mr. Trump of covering for the Saudi regime.

"The attack is a disaster for an already deeply strained relationship," Bruce Riedel, a scholar at the Brookings Institution, told *The New York Times*.

Mr. Riedel criticized "the president's parroting of the Saudi line" before the results of an investigation into the attack and the suspect's motives have been released.

Max Boot, a *Washington Post* columnist, accused Mr. Trump of acting as "a spokesman for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

"Imagine how he would've reacted to this terrorist attack if the shooter had been a Mexican immigrant or Muslim immigrant from any other country in the world other than Saudi Arabia," Mr. Boot said on CNN.

His criticism was echoed by Aaron David Miller, a Middle East negotiator and senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who said Mr. Trump had created a "virtually impenetrable zone of immunity for Saudi Arabia."

Mr. Miller said the president was driven to defend the country by "oil, money, weapons sales, a good deal of Saudi feting and flattery."

Saudi Arabia is considered to be a critical US ally due to its oil supply and its ability to counter Iran in the Middle East region.

The Pensacola attack was the second shooting at a US military base this week, following an attack at Pearl Harbour in which two workers were shot dead by a US sailor.

US media has reported that Alshamrani played videos of mass shootings at a dinner before the attack, raising further questions about his state of mind and fitness for military service.



A Reuters article by Idrees Ali and Phil Stewart titled "U.S. Grounds Saudi Pilots, Halts Military Training After Base Shooting" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 10, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

The Pentagon announced on Tuesday it was halting operational training of all Saudi Arabian military personnel in the United States until further notice after a Saudi Air Force lieutenant shot and killed three people last week at a base in Florida.

The decision will have far-reaching impacts on visiting Saudi personnel, including grounding more than 300 Saudi Arabian military aviation students as part of a "safety stand-down," first reported by Reuters earlier on Tuesday.

The Pentagon later confirmed the Reuters report about aviation students and added the move would also affect infantry personnel and all other Saudi training, other than classroom training. Such coursework, which includes English-language classes, will continue.

A senior U.S. defense official, briefing Pentagon reporters on the decision, said the move was intended to allow for a broader review of security procedures that would eventually apply to all of some 5,000 international military students in the United States.

Still, the safety standdown only applied to the some 850 visiting students from Saudi Arabia. The defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the shooting "suggested that there could be a particular improvement with that (nation's) population."

"I don't have any evidence to suggest that there is a larger ring or larger conspiracy," the official said, when asked what was driving the safety-standdown.

The FBI has said U.S. investigators believe Saudi Air Force Second Lieutenant Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, 21, acted alone when he attacked a U.S. Navy base in Pensacola, Florida, on Friday, before he was fatally shot by a deputy sheriff.

The shootings have again raised questions about the U.S. military relationship with Saudi Arabia, which has come under heightened scrutiny in Congress over the war in Yemen and Saudi Arabia's killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi last year.

Still, U.S. military leaders have sought to portray this as a localized issue which would not affect the overall U.S.-Saudi relationship.

Navy spokeswoman Lieutenant Andriana Genualdi said the safety standdown and operational pause began on Monday for Saudi Arabian aviation students. She said the grounding included three different military facilities: Naval Air Station Pensacola, Naval Air Station Whiting Field and Naval Air Station Mayport, all in Florida.

The Air Force said its groundings of Saudi aviation students also applied to additional U.S. bases.

"Given the traumatic events, we feel it is best to keep the Royal Saudi Air Force students off the flying schedule for a short time," the Air Force spokeswoman said.

Alshamrani was on the base as part of a U.S. Navy training program designed to foster links with foreign allies. He had started training in the United States in 2017 and had been in the Pensacola area for the past 18 months, authorities said.

A group that tracks online extremism has said Alshamrani appeared to have posted criticism of U.S. wars in predominantly Muslim countries and quoted slain al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden on Twitter hours before the shooting spree.



A Reuters by Robin Emmott article titled "Cold War Redux? U.S. to Hold Largest Europe Exercises in 25 Years" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 10, 2019. Following is the article.

The United States will send 20,000 troops to Europe next April and May in its biggest military exercises on European soil since the Cold War to underscore Washington's commitment to NATO, a senior allied commander said on Tuesday.

Days after a NATO summit in London at which U.S. President Donald Trump called low-spending European allies "delinquent," U.S. Major General Barre Seguin said the exercises, centered on Germany, will be the largest of their kind in 25 years.

"This really demonstrates transatlantic unity and the U.S. commitment to NATO," Seguin, who oversees allied operations from NATO's military headquarters in Belgium, told Reuters.

Eager to deter Russia from any repeat of its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, the U.S. Army will test its ability to transport the soldiers across the Atlantic to Belgium and the Netherlands and then move quickly east through Germany into Poland and along NATO's eastern flank.

The soldiers will join U.S. personnel stationed across the continent, as well as militaries from 18 NATO allies, to mass around 37,000 troops, before returning to the United States, in an echo of the 'Return of Forces to Germany', or 'REFORGER' maneuvers, of the 1980s.

"We have not demonstrated this ability to rapidly reinforce, from a transatlantic perspective . . . for 25 years or so," said Seguin, saying he recalled the REFORGER maneuvers as a boy in school in Germany.

NATO has already sent battalions to the Baltics and Poland to deter potential Russian incursions but now aims to be able to sustain any military operations. European governments are also spending more on making troops combat-ready.

Russia says it has no intention of attacking NATO and accuses the alliance of destabilizing Europe.

While French President Emmanuel Macron has questioned the U.S. commitment to NATO because of Trump's unrelenting criticism of allies, the U.S. president has also confounded Europeans by strengthening America's military presence in Europe.

Seventy years since its Cold War-era founding as an alliance focused on Moscow, Russia's efforts to undermine Western democracies through cyber attacks, disinformation campaigns and covert operations have given NATO a renewed sense of purpose.

The U.S. military has also put countering China and Russia at the center of national defense strategy, shifting priorities after focusing on the fight against Islamist militants.

"We're going into an era of strategic competition in peacetime," Seguin said. "The alliance has reorientated."



"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 Jill Lawless, Danica Kirka and Mike Corder titled "Britain's Conservatives Secure Parliamentary Majority [And Continued Path for Brexit]" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 12, 2019.

■ An article by Amy Teibel titled "Israeli Lawmakers Submit Bill for 3rd Election in Less Than Year" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 10, 2019.

■ An article by Alexandra Ma titled "China Claims All Uighur Muslims Have Happily 'Graduated' From Its Oppressive Prison Camp System, Despite Widespread Reports That at Least 1 Million Are Detained" was posted at businessinsider.com on Dec. 9, 2019.

■ An article titled "Iran Says New Budget Bucks US Oil Embargo, Uses Russian Loan" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 8, 2019.

■ An article by Frances Martel titled "Venezuela's Maduro Vows to Arm 4 Million Leftist 'Militants' in 2020" was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 9, 2019.

■ An article by Joshua Goodman titled "AP Exclusive: Troops That Defied Maduro Have Fled Venezuela" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 9, 2019.

■ An article by Jari Tanner titled "Female Minister [Sanna Marin], 34, Tapped to Become Finland's Youngest PM" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 8, 2019.

- A Reuters article by Anne Kauranen titled “Women Under 35 Run Finland [12 Ministers in the New Cabinet Are Women and Just 7 Are Men] As World’s Youngest Leader [Sanna Marin] Takes Office” was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article by Joelle Goldstein titled “[Russian] Airline Pilot Tragically Suffers Fatal Heart Attack During Flight Leading to Emergency Landing” was posted at people.com on Nov. 26, 2019.



An article by Victor Davis Hanson titled “History Has Shown That Socialism Isn’t the Cure” was posted at mercurynews.com on Nov. 8, 2019. Following is the article.

Multiple forms of socialism, from hard Stalinism to European redistribution, continue to fail.

Russia and China are still struggling with the legacy of genocidal communism. Eastern Europe still suffers after decades of Soviet-imposed socialist chaos.

Cuba, Nicaragua, North Korea and Venezuela are unfree, poor and failed states. Baathism—a synonym for pan-Arabic socialism—ruined the postwar Middle East.

The soft-socialist European Union countries are stagnant and mostly dependent on the U.S. military for their protection.

In contrast, current American deregulation, tax cuts and incentives, and record energy production have given the United States the strongest economy in the world.

So why, then, are two of the top three Democratic presidential contenders—Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren—either overtly or implicitly running on socialist agendas?

Why are the heartthrobs of American progressives—Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) and Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.)—calling for socialist redistributionist schemes?

Why do polls show that a majority of American millennials have a favorable view of socialism?

There are lots of catalysts for the new socialism.

Massive immigration is changing the demography of the United States. The number of foreign-born U.S. residents and their children has been estimated at almost 60 million, or about 1 in 5 U.S. residents. Some 27% of California residents were born outside of America.

Many of these immigrants flee from poor areas of Latin America, Mexico, Africa and Asia that were wrecked by statism and socialism. Often, they arrive in the U.S. unaware of economic and political alternatives to state socialism.

When they reach the U.S.—often without marketable skills and unable to speak English—many assume that America will simply offer a far better ver-

sion of the statism from which they fled. Consequently, many take for granted that government will provide them an array of social services, and they become supportive of progressive socialism.

Another culprit for the new socialist craze is the strange leftward drift of the very wealthy in Silicon Valley, in corporate America and on Wall Street.

Some of the new progressive rich feel guilty about their unprecedented wealth. So they champion redistribution as the sort of medieval penance that alleviates guilt.

Yet the influential and monied classes usually are so well off that higher taxes hardly affect them. Instead, redistributionist taxation hurts the struggling middle classes.

In California, it became hip for wealthy leftists to promote socialism from their Malibu, Menlo Park or Mill Valley enclaves—while still living as privileged capitalists. Meanwhile, it proved nearly impossible for the middle classes of Stockton and Bakersfield to cope with the reality of crushing taxes and terrible social services.

From 2008 to 2017, the now-multimillionaire Barack Obama, first as candidate and then as president, used all sorts of cool socialist slogans, from “spread the wealth around” and “now is not the time to profit” to “you didn’t build that” and “at a certain point you’ve made enough money.”

Universities bear much of the blame. Their manipulation of the federal government to guarantee student loans empowered them to jack up college costs without any accountability. Liberal college administrators and faculty did not care much when graduates left campus poorly educated and unable to market their expensive degrees.

More than 45 million borrowers now struggle with nearly \$1.6 trillion in collective student debt, with climbing interest. That indebtedness has delayed—or ended—the traditional forces that encourage conservatism and traditionalism, such as getting married, having children and buying a home.

Instead, a generation of single, childless and mostly urban youth feels cheated that their high-priced degrees did not earn them competitive salaries. Millions of embittered college graduates will never be able to pay off what they owe—and want some entity to pay off their debts.

In paradoxical fashion, teenagers were considered savvy adults who were mature enough to take on gargantuan loans. But they were also treated like fragile preteens who were warned that the world outside their campus sanctuaries was downright mean, sexist, racist, homophobic and unfair.

Finally, doctrinaire Republicans for decades mouthed orthodoxies of free rather than fair trade. They embraced the idea of creative destruction of industries, but without worrying about the real-life consequences for the unemployed in the hollowed out red-state interior.

Add up a lost generation of woke and broke college graduates, waves of impoverished immigrants without much knowledge of American economic traditions, wealthy advocates of boutique socialism and asleep-at-the-wheel Republicans, and it becomes clear why historically destructive socialism is suddenly seen as cool.

Regrettably, sometimes the naive and disaffected must relearn that their pie-in-the sky socialist medicine is far worse than the perceived malady of inequality.

And unfortunately, when socialists gain power, they don't destroy just themselves. They usually take everyone else down with them as well.



A letter by Doug King titled "Socialism May Not Be the Cure, But Capitalism Is the Illness" was posted at eastbaytimes.com on Nov. 14, 2019. Following is the letter.

Re: "Hanson: History has clearly shown us that socialism isn't the cure" (Opinion section, Nov. 8):

Socialism may not be the cure but capitalism is the illness. All Hanson offers is more of the same prescriptions that brought us to climate change, inequality, huge government, corporate and private debts, erosion of our infrastructure, a health care crisis, international turmoil, etc.

How about some ownership and something new? If we redefine the goal as sustainability instead of growth, universal equity in services and opportunity, building community instead of dominance, and building a world for the seventh generation in the future, then we must acknowledge that capitalism as we have known it is broken.

Rather than try to pigeonhole the opposition with a derogatory label, let's find a way to utilize human character to fulfill the promise of a better world for all living creatures both now and in the future.



A letter by David Kurrent titled "Capitalism Needs to Have Socialism to Keep it Honest" was posted at eastbaytimes.com on Nov. 16, 2019. Following is the letter.

Commentator Victor Davis Hanson decried "socialism" in his Nov. 8 op-ed titled "Hanson: History has clearly shown us that socialism isn't the cure." Davis doesn't realize that capitalism isn't the cure either.

Capitalism is driven by greed and manipulation. Capitalism will implode without regulations and social programs that keep capitalism in check and provide safety nets and opportunities for the working class. The United States experienced this with the Great Depression. Before then, the country was mostly a capitalistic society. Frequent booms and busts played havoc on our economy, and disparity in wealth and lack of safety nets left many in abject poverty, unable to buy things.

Only when FDR introduced social programs like Social Security did our economy stabilize and give us the great economy we have today.

Capitalism needs socialism to keep it honest and to ensure that consumers have money to buy things, something even more important as artificial intelligence eliminates jobs.



An article by Michelle Malkin titled "Citizen revolt: Resist refugee resettlement dumps!" was posted at michellemalkin.com on Dec. 5, 2019. Following is the article.

Should U.S. citizens have input into whether their neighborhoods are fundamentally and permanently transformed into United Nations refugee camps full of welfare dependents and tax burdens?

Government-funded charities that profit mightily from the federal refugee resettlement program say: "Hell, no!"

But President Donald Trump and growing numbers of informed Americans across the heartland are raising their voices to say: "Heavens, yes!"

This week, an extraordinary revolt took place in Bismarck, North Dakota, where an overflow crowd of residents braved subzero temperatures to register their opposition to allowing the Lutheran Social Services to dump any new refugees in their backyard.

Thanks to an executive order signed by Trump in September, local communities now have explicit opt-in rights to stem the lucrative tide of refugees coming largely from Third World countries and jihadist breeding grounds.

Open borders legal groups are, of course, challenging the order in court. These zealots object to states and localities exercising self-determination when it comes to rejecting refugees because it would undermine "national immigration policy," yet they promote illegal immigrant sanctuary policies in states and localities that create uncontrollable criminal anarchy.

While GOP Gov. Doug Burgum signaled his support for increased importation of refugees, Brian Bitner, chairman of the Burleigh County Commission, echoed the concerns of his constituents.

"North Dakota is already the highest per capita state for refugee resettlement in terms of number of citizens, so in the absence of any sort of number, there's no way we could know the cost to the state or the county, and I simply can't support that," Bitner told local media at the Bismarck protest.

Similar outbreaks of resistance have taken place in Maine, New Hampshire, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Vermont, Wyoming and Tennessee over the years.

But many Americans remain alarmingly clueless about the four-decade-old, tax-funded racket lining the pockets of nine privileged, nonprofit contractors (and scores of their subcontracting partners like Bismarck's LSS).

■ Church World Service

- Ethiopian Community Development Council
- Episcopal Migration Ministries
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
- International Rescue Committee
- S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- World Relief Corporation

As I report in "Open Borders Inc.," the U.S. State Department pays each agency \$2,125 per refugee for initial reception and placement; the nonprofits can take up to a 45% cut and use the rest for the initial resettlement costs. Subsidies for management costs are negotiated separately. Unknown thousands more per head are collected for post-placement services.

That's just the tip of the iceberg of refugee resettlement costs imposed on American taxpayers.

In the 2016 annual report to Congress by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the agency reported that in the year prior, 26.7% of refugees received cash assistance from at least one federal program; 66.1% of refugees had received noncash assistance such as SNAP (food stamps).

The Federation for American Immigration Reform crunched the numbers in 2018 and estimated the annual cost of refugee resettlement to U.S. taxpayers at \$1.8 billion, and \$8.8 billion over a five-year period.

Using ORR data, FAIR estimated the cost per refugee to American taxpayers at just under \$79,600 in the first five years after a refugee is resettled in the U.S. and also found the following.

- In 2016, the State Department spent nearly \$545 million to process and resettle refugees, including \$140,389,177 on transportation costs.
- Of the \$1.8 billion in resettlement costs, \$867 billion was spent on welfare alone.
- \$71 million will be spent to educate refugees and asylum-seekers, a majority of which will be paid by state and local governments.

Steven Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies zeroed in on the heavy costs of resettling Middle Eastern refugees.

In their first five years in the United States, he found, "each refugee from the Middle East costs taxpayers \$64,370—12 times what the UN estimates it costs to care for one refugee in neighboring Middle Eastern countries. The cost of resettlement includes heavy welfare use by Middle Eastern refugees; 91 percent receive food stamps and 68 percent receive cash assistance."

In addition to food stamps and public housing, refugees collect money from Supplemental Security Income (for the elderly and disabled), welfare cash benefits from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, the federal school lunch program, and the Women, Infants and Children program.

Under the new Trump order, the resettlement agencies must obtain and submit evidence of local, county or state consent by Jan. 21, 2020 to protect their refugee cash flow.

If you live in an economically depressed area, crime-ridden city or growth-clogged suburb targeted on the refugee resettlement map, now is the time to put boots on the ground to protect your community and country.

As government watchdog Ann Corcoran of Refugee Resettlement Watch warns: "This is not just a bureaucratic exercise! . . . For us it is a referendum on state's rights and whether local citizens will have a say in whether their communities will be changed (forever!)."

America First or America Last? Speak now or kiss our sovereignty goodbye.



An article by Walter Williams titled "Fraud in Higher Education" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on Dec. 4, 2019. Following is the article.

This year's education scandal saw parents shelling out megabucks to gain college admittance for their children. Federal prosecutors have charged more than 50 people with participating in a scheme to get their children into colleges by cheating on entrance exams or bribing athletic coaches.

They paid William Singer, a college-prep professional, more than \$25 million to bribe coaches and university administrators and to change test scores on college admittance exams such as the SAT and ACT.

As disgusting as this grossly dishonest behavior is, it is only the tiny tip of fraud in higher education.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016, only 37% of white high school graduates tested as college-ready, but colleges admitted 70% of them. Roughly 17% of black high school graduates tested as college-ready, but colleges admitted 58% of them.

A 2018 Hechinger Report found, "More than four in 10 college students end up in developmental math and English classes at an annual cost of approximately \$7 billion, and many of them have a worse chance of eventually graduating than if they went straight into college-level classes."

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, "when considering all first-time undergraduates, studies have found anywhere from 28 percent to 40 percent of students enroll in at least one remedial course.

When looking at only community college students, several studies have found remediation rates surpassing 50 percent."

Only 25% of students who took the ACT in 2012 met the test's readiness benchmarks in all four subjects (English, reading, math and science).

It's clear that high schools confer diplomas that attest that a student can read, write and do math at a 12th-grade level when, in fact, most cannot. That means most high diplomas represent fraudulent documents.

But when high school graduates enter college, what happens?

To get a hint, we can turn to an article by Craig E. Klafter, "Good Grieve! America's Grade Inflation Culture," published in the Fall 2019 edition of Academic Questions.

In 1940, only 15% of all grades awarded were A's. By 2018, the average grade point average at some of the nation's leading colleges was A-minus. For example, the average GPA at Brown University (3.75), Stanford (3.68), Harvard College (3.63), Yale University (3.63), Columbia University (3.6), University of California, Berkeley (3.59).

The falling standards witnessed at our primary and secondary levels are becoming increasingly the case at tertiary levels.

"Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses" is a study conducted by Professors Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa. They found that 45% of 2,300 students at 24 colleges showed no significant improvement in "critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing by the end of their sophomore years."

An article in News Forum for Lawyers titled "Study Finds College Students Remarkably Incompetent" cites a study done by the American Institutes for Research that revealed that over 75% of two-year college students and 50% of four-year college students were incapable of completing everyday tasks.

About 20% of four-year college students demonstrated only basic mathematical ability, while a steeper 30% of two-year college students could not progress past elementary arithmetic. NBC News reported that Fortune 500 companies spend about \$3 billion annually to train employees in "basic English."

Here is a list of some other actual college courses that have been taught at U.S. colleges in recent years.

- "What If Harry Potter Is Real?"
- "Lady Gaga and the Sociology of Fame"
- "Philosophy and Star Trek"
- "Learning from YouTube"
- "How To Watch Television"
- "Oh, Look, a Chicken!"

The questions that immediately come to mind are these.

- What kind of professor would teach such courses?
- What kind of student would spend his time taking such courses?
- Most importantly, what kind of college president and board of trustees would permit classes in such nonsense?

The fact that unscrupulous parents paid millions for special favors from college administrators to enroll their children pales in comparison to the poor educational outcomes, not to mention the gross indoctrination of young people by leftist professors.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Some People Just Need to Grow Up" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 7, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

If you're a Republican and you disagree with President Trump on some issue or other, I have no problem with it. You are certainly entitled to your opinion, although I would be only too happy to explain where you've gone wrong.

The folks who annoy me are those supercilious Republican soccer moms and their country club husbands who stick their noses in the air and sniff haughtily every time President Trump tweets or utters a snarky insult directed at his foes on Capitol Hill or the media. So far as I'm concerned, that's like complaining about George Washington's wig.

■ A key to his victory

The thing to keep in mind is that if he weren't what you consider vulgar and common, he never would have defeated Hillary Clinton. It wasn't just that he said he opposed open borders and endless wars when he was campaigning, it was the way he said it. He said it like he meant it, which made him unique. Politicians never speak like human beings. They speak like robots, just the way Trump mimics them when, at one of his rallies, he goes into his pompous presidential routine.

■ Didn't sound like a phony

The problem is we have grown so accustomed to presidents speaking in the arch and solemn tones of a funeral director that when we finally get one who talks the way the rest of us do, some of us seem to think there's something wrong with him. No, there's something wrong with us if we think phonies like Clinton, Obama and the Bushes, are the real deal.

For my part, I don't think it would hurt if once in a while he even showed up without a jacket and tie.

I'm not comparing myself to the President, but when I showed up for my first day on the job after being signed to be the Executive Story Consultant (staff writer) on Dick Van Dyke's series, "Diagnosis Murder," I asked if there was a dress code. I was told there wasn't, so long as I did the work. So, on the second day I showed up in tennis shorts, a Hawaiian shirt and sneakers, and I did the work. For what it's worth, within a week, half the folks on the show were showing up in shorts and t-shirts.

■ Remember the mess

So, all you Republicans who are withholding your admiration of President Trump, in spite of all his accomplishments, because he doesn't fit your image of what a bank president or a church elder should be, should try to remember what a mess those other schmucks left for this guy to clean up.

■ Don't call them terrorists

Anthony Romero, the head of the ACLU has condemned President Trump for trying to place Mexico's drug cartels on the list of terrorist organizations, calling it "cruel." I suppose it's just one more attempt to make Trump sound like a racist. After all, if trying to protect America's sovereignty by building a wall and to protect Americans by deporting MS-13 gangbangers constitutes racism, I suppose it's inevitable that a pinhead would call him cruel for labeling drug lords terrorists.

■ Even though they murdered 360,000

But I would think that even the head of something as god-awful as the ACLU would recognize that when cartels have murdered more than 360,000 of their countrymen since 2000, that places them right up there with the Taliban, ISIS and al-Qaeda.

■ Obama deported more

I was surprised to hear that during his first three years in office, Barack Obama deported 1.1 million illegal aliens, whereas Donald Trump only deported 800,000. I was surprised until I realized the difference is that states and cities used to cooperate with federal agencies. But ever since they've gone rogue and begun waging war on ICE by declaring themselves sanctuaries, it's become nearly impossible to evict the trespassers even after they've committed rape and murder.

■ Some Italians admit it

Apparently, even in places where they're not voting overwhelmingly for Socialists, the way they insist on doing in the U.S., my fellow Jews can't seem to catch a break. In a recent poll, 11% of Italians admit to being anti-Semites.

It's bad enough when underachieving Arabs and Muslims hate Jews, but it saddens me greatly when I hear it about people who have given the world Christopher Columbus, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Giacomo Puccini, spaghetti and Sophia Loren.

■ Attempts to buy an election

According to Brit Hume, the difference between Michael Bloomberg and his competitors, including Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, is that "He's trying to buy the election with his own money and the others are trying to buy it with yours."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Prof. Jiminy Cricket" was posted at patriotpst.us on Dec. 9, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

If you recall the story of Pinocchio, you'll recall that although he was made of wood, he was blessed to have a cricket for a conscience. But having a head, not to mention legs and arms, made of wood, he was always ignoring Jiminy's wise counsel. As a result, he wound up on Pleasure Island where boys are encouraged to misbehave. Eventually, because they carry on like braying jackasses, they are turned into donkeys and sold off to work on farms and in mines.

In the 1930's, during the Depression, pedophile hobos began singing "Big Rock Candy Mountain" with altered lyrics which promised a magical place where, instead of "cops with wooden legs, bulldogs with rubber teeth and hens that lay soft-boiled eggs," children would find candy, soda pop and gum drops. That was before the freaks began luring away their tiny victims by asking for their help in finding lost puppies and kittens.

■ Gullible young people

It seems that our college age children are every bit as gullible as these others even though they are three or four times older. At a time when they should be paying heed to the Jiminy Cricket's in their life, they are allowing themselves to be snookered by those like Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and their Socialist cohorts who are promising them a Big Rock Candy Mountain that will provide them with free health care, free college tuition, a forgiveness of student debt, a living wage whether or not they have a job, and just maybe a puppy dog of their own that somebody else will walk and feed and bathe.

■ 365,000 Mexicans murdered

President Trump wants to declare drug cartels terrorist organizations, but Mexico is resisting the action, declaring they can handle the problem on their own. Well, of course, they can. Since 2000, there have been four presidents of Mexico. They have been Vicente Fox (2000-2006), Felipe Calderon (2006-2012), Enrique Pena Nieto (2012-2018) and Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (2018-present). Under their gallant leadership, 365,000 Mexicans, several American Border Patrol agents and nine American civilians, have been murdered by the drug cartels.

Mexico is such a corrupt country that even when I was very young, tourists knew they could avoid traffic tickets by bribing the police officers. We also knew that the reason the president didn't mind being limited to a single six-year term was because anyone who couldn't steal a fortune in that time simply wasn't trying.

Since the drug cartels took control of Mexico, the presidents have only gotten richer.

■ Opposing photo I.D.s

Even though the election is still a year off, we are already hearing that Russia, Ukraine, Iran, China and North Korea, will all be trying to meddle in our elections. My assumption is that they couldn't do much worse than the Democrats, who keep opposing photo I.D.s because they see them as a way to cut down on their attempts at election fraud.

■ Consider paper ballots

My own revolutionary solution is to use paper ballots. Obviously, it's not a sure cure. After all, it wasn't that long ago that Al Franken won his Senate seat because the corrupt Minnesota Democrats kept finding missing boxes of ballots in closets, attics and the trunks of '87 Chevys, until he had enough to win the election by a few hundred votes.

But at least with paper ballots, we could stop worrying about foreigners cocking up our elections and leaving it in the hands of corrupt Americans.

■ Barack Obama and Bernie Sanders

Barack Obama has apparently told friends that he will do whatever he needs to do to prevent Bernie Sanders from winning the nomination. With all the Socialists in the race, I can't imagine why he would single out Sanders, unless it is to once again express his anti-Semitic feelings.

■ Crowds don't represent millions

Speaking of the contenders, they are deluding themselves if they're using the enthusiasm of their crowds as a yardstick. When they go on and on about open borders; free healthcare for illegal aliens; special rights for transgenders; gun confiscation; higher taxes; decriminalizing drug use; banning fossil fuels; compelling bakers and florists to defy their religious beliefs by servicing same-sex marriages; and the whole rest of the woke agenda items, they assume that the 600 clapping seals represent untold millions.

They are so besotted with their own greatness, they ignore the fact that normal people do not leave their nice, warm homes to listen to the likes of Biden, Warren, Sanders and Buttigieg, prattle on. President Trump can draw huge crowds because he's entertaining and fairly spontaneous. Even the Clintons, who had a little pizzazz, relied heavily on black singers and Hollywood stars to draw a crowd.

■ Registered Democrats aren't happy

What the Democrats choose to ignore is that it's the folks who stay away from these cult meetings who do most of the voting in this country. And even those who are registered Democrats are not particularly enamored with the likes of Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, assuming so much influence in their party.

Being normal, and not zealots, means they don't want to give up on cheeseburgers and gas-fueled vehicles, and they certainly don't want America to surrender its sovereignty to the whims of the assorted gangster nations who congregate at the U.N.

■ Talkative parrot

Bob Hunt sent along a joke about a man named John who received a parrot as a gift.

The parrot's vocabulary was so obscene, it would have made a sailor blush.

John attempted to civilize the bird by playing soft music and using only the politest of language in the parrot's presence. But nothing worked. Finally, out of frustration, John cursed out the bird. But the bird was out of John's league when it came to filthy language.

John became so enraged, he grabbed the bird and placed him in the freezer. For a few minutes, the parrot squawked out a series of obscenities. Then there was silence. Not a peep, not even a single "son of a bitch."

John, suddenly fearing he'd gone too far and killed the bird, quickly opened the freezer door. The parrot calmly stepped out and onto John's shoulder and said: "I fear I may have offended you with my crude language. I'm sincere-

ly remorseful. I can only pray that you will forgive my previous transgressions. I pledge to do better in the future.”

John was stunned by the parrot’s new attitude.

Just as he was about to ask the parrot what had brought about such a dramatic change, the parrot said in a very soft voice: “Might I ask what the turkey did to displease you?”



“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 Niv Elis titled “Deficit Spikes 12 Percent in First Two Months of Fiscal Year: CBO” was posted at thehill.com on Dec. 9, 2019.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “Feds Collect Record Taxes Through November; But Still Run \$343.3 Billion Deficit With Second-Highest Spending in Nation’s History” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 11, 2019.
- An article by Mike DeBonis titled “Congressional Negotiators Reach Tentative \$1.3 Trillion Federal Spending Deal” was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 12, 2019.

Finances

- An article by Scott Gamm titled “Former Fed Advisor [Danielle DiMartino Booth] on Jobs: Donald Trump and Jerome Powell Can ‘Take Another Victory Lap’ ” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 6, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled “158,593,000 Employed in November; 24th Record Breaker for Trump” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 6, 2019.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled “Record 28,350,000 Hispanics Employed in November” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 6, 2019.
- An article by Jeff Cox titled “Jobs Growth Soars in November As Payrolls Surge by 266,000” was posted at cnbc.com on Dec. 6, 2019.

Trade war

- An article by Adam Behsudi titled “U.S., China Strike Partial Trade Deal That Cuts Tariffs” was posted at politico.com on Dec. 12, 2019.

Green New Deal

- An article by Jack Hellner titled “Global Warming, Global Cooling, Climate Change, Climate Emergency, Climate Catastrophe, Climate Collapse Or Existential Threat?” was posted at americanthinker.com on Dec. 4, 2019.
- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled “What Climate Change? Obamas Finalize Purchase of Oceanfront Mansion” was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 5, 2019.

- An article by Alex Nitzberg titled "Bernie Suggests We Stop Spending Money on Weapons and Spend It All on 'Our Common Enemy' [Climate Change]" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 6, 2019.
- An article titled "Harrison Ford Spearheads Push by U.S. Groups for Climate Action" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article by Vic Forbes titled "With Greens' Policies, No Wonder Australia's on Fire" was posted at americanthinker.com on Dec. 7, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "Exxon Mobil Prevails in New York Climate Change Lawsuit" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 10, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- Looking back to June, an article by Eric Boehm titled "Actually, Joe Biden and the Obama Administration Deported More People Than Trump" was posted at reason.com on June 27, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Mosheh Gains titled "After Pensacola Shooting, Navy Looking at Making It Harder for Foreign Trainees to Buy Guns" was posted at nbcnews.com on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article by Louis Casiano titled "Virginia Sheriff [Scott Jenkins] Vows to Deputize Residents If State Gun Control Legislation Passes" was posted at nypost.com on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Bloomberg: When I'm President, I'll Pack the Supreme Court With Anti-Gun Justices" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 10, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Democrats Remake Impeachment Standards While Trump Remakes the Judiciary" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 6, 2019.
- Looking back to November, an article titled "President Donald J. Trump Is Appointing a Historic Number of Federal Judges to Uphold Our Constitution As Written" was posted at whitehouse.gov on Nov. 6, 2019.
- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "[Alan] Dershowitz [Liberal Democrat Who Is Famous Defense Lawyer and Constitutional Scholar]: Democrats Acting Like Stalin, 'Show Me the Man and I'll Find You the Crime' " was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 9, 2019.
- An article by the Editorial Board titled "Pelosi Again Exposes Impeachment As Just a Cynical Political Show" was posted at nypost.com on Dec. 5, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "IG: '17 Significant Inaccuracies and Omissions' in FBI Applications for Warrant to Spy on Trump Campaign Adviser [in 2016]" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 9, 2019.

- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Sen. Graham: Discredited [Steele] Dossier [in 2016] 'Was Central' to FBI to Get Warrants [Against Trump Campaign]" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Dec. 12, 2019.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "[FBI] Agents Who Doctored FISA Evidence and Abused Their Power Are Still Working at the FBI" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Dec. 12, 2019.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Pelosi on Impeachment: 'Politics Is Not Even a Consideration in This' " was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Dec. 5, 2019.
- An article by Peter Stubley titled "Trump Impeachment: More Than 600 Law Academics Conclude There Is 'Overwhelming Evidence' for President's Removal" was posted at [independent.co.uk](https://www.independent.co.uk) on Dec. 7, 2019.
- An article by Hunter Walker titled "Democratic Congressman [Al Green of Texas] Says 'It Will Not End If the Senate Does Not Convict' " was posted at [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article by Lauren Frias titled "A Key Paragraph in the Articles of Impeachment Against Trump Mentions Disqualifying Him From Ever Running for Office Again" (which is unprecedented and reveals Democrats' intense determination) was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Dec. 11, 2019.
- An article by Julio Rosas titled "Another House Democrat [Karen Bass of California] Says They Are Open to Impeaching Trump Again If He Wins in 2020" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Dec. 11, 2019.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Apparently, Val Demings [Florida Democrat] Thinks Her Ancestors Being Slaves Is Somehow Relevant in An Impeachment Hearing" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Dec. 11, 2019.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Jerry Nadler Just Said We Can't 'Trust an Election' to Get Rid of President Trump" was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Dec. 12, 2019.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "John Kerry Backs Biden to Put 'Back Together the World Donald Trump Has Smashed Apart' " was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Dec. 5, 2019.
- An article by Eliza Relman titled "Joe Biden Slams the Media for Saying Democrats Have Moved 'Extremely to the Left' Since 2016 and Says the Party's Not With Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez" was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Dec. 6, 2019.
- An article by Dylan Stableford and Christopher Wilson titled "If Bernie Sanders Is Stuck in D.C. for An Impeachment Trial, AOC Could Campaign for Him" was posted at [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com) on Dec. 6, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Simon Lewis titled "U.S. Democratic Contender Sanders Proposes \$150 Billion for 'High-Speed Internet for All' " was posted at [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) on Dec. 6, 2019.

- An article by Ben Holland titled "A 5,000-Year-Old Plan [a National Jubilee] to Erase Debts Is Now a Hot Topic in America" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article by Joe Garofoli titled "Mike Bloomberg, Trying to Win Converts in California, Gets an Event With Jerry Brown" was posted at sfchronicle.com on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article titled "[Michael] Bloomberg Gives \$10 Million to Help Endangered House Democrats" was posted at cbsnews.com on Dec. 12, 2019.
- An article by Armando Garcia titled "Candidates of Color Raise Concern Over Depleting Diversity in the Democratic Presidential Field" was posted at gma.com on Dec. 7, 2019.

Deval Patrick

- An article by Darren Sands titled "Deval Patrick Said His Record of Fixing Problems Other Candidates Only 'Have Plans For' Is Resonating in New Hampshire" was posted at buzzfeednews.com on Dec. 9, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Guy Benson titled "Lefty Writer [Matt Taibbi]: Let's Face It, the IG Report Is Damning for the FBI, Adam Schiff and Much of the Media" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 11, 2019.
- An article by Matt Vespa titled "Freak Out: Liberal Media Are Fearing Democrats Might Have Blown Up Their Impeachment Circus" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 10, 2019.
- An article by Bronson Stocking titled "Wow, CNN Admits Democrats [Veronica Escobar and Sheila Jackson Lee, Both of Texas] Lied About Trump's Ukraine Call" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 12, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Ben Arnold titled "Disney Becomes First Studio Ever to Make More Than \$10 Billion in a Single Year" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 9, 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."