

Eye on the World

June 8, 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 June 8, 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 Martin Abbugao and Elizabeth Law titled "Beijing Warns US Not to Underestimate Chinese Military" was posted at yahoo.com on May 31, 2019. Following is the article.

Beijing warned Friday [May 31] that the US should not underestimate China's military as the top defence officials from both countries met on the sidelines of a security forum.

As Beijing and Washington vie for influence in a region hosting potential flashpoints such as the South China Sea, Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait, acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan met Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe for 20 minutes Friday.

Chinese defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian said they "reached some consensus" on issues of common concern, adding that Wei "particularly emphasised the Taiwan issue."

China sees Taiwan as part of its territory to be reunified, despite the two sides having been ruled separately since the end of a civil war on the mainland in 1949.

Beijing is regularly angered by US warships transiting through the Taiwan Strait, which it considers its territorial waters.

"He (Defence minister Wei) pointed out that the US has recently had a series of negative words and actions on this issue," Wu said, adding that Beijing was "firmly opposed" to this.

"On the issue of safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the US should not underestimate the determination, will and ability of the Chinese military."

Shanahan spokesman Joe Buccino told reporters the meeting was "constructive and productive."

Risk of misunderstanding

"The two leaders discussed ways to build military-to-military relations that reduce the risk of misunderstanding and miscalculation between our nations," he said.

Washington has been pushing back against Beijing's militarisation of the South China Sea, and ahead of Friday's meeting Shanahan told reporters that facilities China was building on reclaimed land in the South China Sea appeared to be an "overkill" if they were purely defensive.

"I mean surface-to-air missiles, long runways . . . Seems excessive," Shanahan said.

A top US top general said earlier this week that Chinese President Xi Jinping had reneged on promises by building "10,000-foot runways, ammunition storage facilities, routine deployment of missile defense capabilities, aviation capabilities" on reclaimed land.

Wei's attendance at the Shangri-La Dialogue—an annual gathering of global defence officials organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies think-tank—is being taken as a sign that China is not backing away from the dispute.

"The Chinese want to be here to say their side of the story," Shawn Ho, associate research fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore told AFP.

"Definitively, we are seeing more competition between the US and China... not just traditional fields, but also in technology... and I think this is something that we have to watch very carefully," Ho said

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said in a keynote speech to the gathering Friday evening the US-China bilateral relationship "is the most important in the world today," urging them to work together.

"Even short of outright conflict, a prolonged period of tension and uncertainty will be extremely damaging," he warned, adding that serious international problems would not be addressed without the full participation of both powers.

Shanahan is expected to flesh out Washington's strategy in the Pacific region, where both the US and China are vying for influence, during a talk on Saturday.

Wei will address the conference on Sunday, with a source from his delegation saying the speech will outline China's role in global security and US-China ties—as well as addressing the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

"The 'China threat' is a non-existent issue. We are here to correct that misconception," added the source, who did not want to be named.



An article by Ben Shapiro titled "What We Can Learn From the European Union" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 30, 2019. Following is the article.

The European Union Parliament elections this week [May 26-June 1] provided a shock to the system for the center-right and center-left coalition in European politics.

The big winners were nationalist movements.

- In France, Marine Le Pen's immigration-restrictionist National Front defeated the party of the current president, Emmanuel Macron.
- In Italy, Matteo Salvini's similarly anti-immigration League Party won big.
- Nationalist parties made gains in Poland, Hungary, Sweden and Great Britain.

Euroscepticism is on the rise. And it is being met with a similarly fervent movement of the left: Greens and liberals did shockingly well in Germany.

The main driver behind the new polarization: increased power aggregated in Brussels. While the European Union parliament majority remains pro-EU and pro-immigration, polarization has broken out specifically as a result of the EU overstepping its original boundaries.

As Daniel Hannan, Conservative MP and Brexit advocate, writes, "The EU, in short, is responding to the euro and migration crises in the way it responds to everything: with deeper integration."

The burgeoning conflict within the EU should provide the United States with an object lesson: When you maximize the power of the federal government at the expense of the states, you maximize the possibility of polarization. And indeed, that's precisely what we've seen.

Take, for example, transgender bathrooms. If ever there were a local issue, that would be one: What business is it of a New Yorker what North Carolinians do to their bathrooms? Yet North Carolina's bathroom laws prompted national boycotts from residents of other states.

That's because the leftist mindset in the United States holds that the federal government ought to weigh in on every issue—and in the absence of federal intervention, informal boycotts should be utilized. Or how about abortion?

The Constitution has a process for amendment—but barring such amendment, the issue of abortion remains state-defined in nature. Nonetheless, Netflix announced this week that it will consider boycotting Georgia if Georgia’s “heartbeat bill” goes into effect. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., among others, has stated that he wants federal legislation to encode *Roe v. Wade*.

It’s not difficult to imagine these mutual recriminations spiraling. As leftists, motivated by the supposed best of intentions, dictate that the federal government radically escalate its intervention into state domains, conservatives will fight back.

The founders recognized that a federal government that usurps state powers would result in the breakdown of the system itself. We’re beginning to see that prophecy play out in Europe; the possibility of a similar progression in the United States seems more and more likely.

A system of defined powers is the only system likely to preserve the health and happiness of a diverse society.

Whether the European Union survives will depend largely on whether the EU takes account of the inherent powers of the countries it represents.

Whether the United States survives in the long run will depend on whether the federal government continues to encroach on the power of localities and states without regard for the strictures of the Constitution.



An article by Jim Geraghty titled “Conservatives Ought to Watch HBO’s *Chernobyl*” was posted at nationalreview.com on May 29, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

How often do conservatives get to celebrate an offering from HBO with full-throated rousing cheers and applause?

HBO’s miniseries *Chernobyl* is every bit as good as you’ve heard. The show is not fun to watch, unless you take a certain grim satisfaction in watching Soviet Union officials squirm in their seats, so terrified of the consequences of telling the truth that they assent to brazen lies that will lead to the painful deaths of hundreds and perhaps thousands of their countrymen.

The Soviets experienced the biggest and most catastrophic nuclear disaster in human history and their first (and second, and third, and fourth) instinct was to not tell anyone and hope no one noticed.

Almost everyone in the Soviet system comes across as callous, shrugging off the painful deaths of good men and women as simply a requirement of ensuring the state’s good reputation. Mikhail Gorbachev appears in a few scenes, alternating between deer-in-the-headlights terror and grumpy irritability that he has to deal with it all.

Chernobyl is that rare docudrama that is simultaneously a horror movie, and it's way more terrifying than most offerings in the horror genre because it's all true (or as accurate as the brilliant creator-writer Craig Mazin could determine, given contrasting historical accounts).

- The radiation is one of the monsters bedeviling the characters on screen.
- The other monster is the Soviet bureaucracy, full of blind denial, insane priorities, moral cowardice, and a depraved indifference to human life.

And according to those who lived through the era, the attention to detail in portraying mid-1980s Soviet life is amazing.

The nearly all-British cast, and their use of their native accents, initially threw me. The series has everyone speak English, but radio broadcasts, emergency telephone-call recordings, the TV news, are in Russian, and I don't know if the mix works as well as the creators intended. But if the first half-hour of the first episode doesn't engross you, stick with it.

The explosion is deliberately underplayed. Towards the end of the first episode, one of the managers of the plant insists the radiation levels are not dangerous, then mid-sentence becomes overcome with sickness and vomits right onto the table in front of local officials. But the episode really picks up near its close when an old apparatchik speaks up at the local government's emergency meeting.

This is the moment when we would expect a sagacious old man, veteran of the wars and wise with experience in matters of life and death, to offer the confused and frightened local officials guidance and perspective they desperately need.

Instead, the old man declares that as good Communists, they have a duty to not evacuate or even inform the residents of Pripyat that they should stay indoors; that scaremongering would only distract the people from their duties to the state. The room bursts into applause.

All of us watching at home know that everyone in that room just simultaneously committed mass murder and collective suicide. They're doomed—and the system they serve was perhaps always doomed. Chernobyl is an epic five-part comprehensive denunciation of the Soviet Union, and with it the intrinsic systemic dishonesty that was required to keep the Communist system in power.

But it's worth keeping in mind that shameless dishonesty in order to avoid embarrassment is a human trait, not just a Socialist one. In almost any governmental system on earth, those running the system can blur their sense of their personal interest and the national interest.

- A bad leader will prioritize his image above all else and see every issue through that lens.
- A bad leader will deny the seriousness of threats because speaking honestly about an emerging danger would require admitting being wrong earlier.

- A bad leader will insist that a failing solution is really working.
- When challenged, those types of leaders focus on finding scapegoats instead of solutions.

This approach to leadership is also futile; the Soviet government's obsession about not being humiliated led to one of its greatest humiliations.



An article by James Pero titled "Most Atheists and Agnostics Believe in the Supernatural and 'Underlying Forces of Good and Evil' Despite Rejecting Religion in Favor of Science; Study Finds" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on May 30, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Even most atheists can't entirely shake their belief in the supernatural, says a new study.

According to recent research, even those who purport not to believe in any organized religion accepted at least some supernatural sentiments.

The study comes from the Understanding Unbelief project, which is sponsored through the University of Kent in the U.K. and was based on thousands of atheist or agnostic respondents.

The crossover between general populations and those who describe themselves and agnostic or atheist may be greater than people think.

'Unbelief in God doesn't necessarily entail unbelief in other supernatural phenomena,' write the report's authors.

'Atheists and (less so) agnostics exhibit lower levels of supernatural belief than do the wider populations.

'However, only minorities of atheists or agnostics in each of our countries appear to be thoroughgoing naturalists.'

Just what exactly those beliefs are vary, according to the experts' research.

In the U.S., a little under 20 percent of Americans reported believing in 'supernatural beings,' while about 50 percent of self-described atheists in China reported believing in 'underlying forces of good and evil.'

Relatively speaking, among general populations U.S. those rates jump to 60 percent in the U.S. and 70 percent in China.

Most commonly accepted beliefs among atheists, who are classified by firmly not believing in the existence of God and agnostics, who say it can't be proved one way or another, are the sentiment that are 'underlying forces' of good and evil; that 'there exists a universal spirit or life force'; and 'most significant life events are meant to be and happen for a reason.'

Agnostics are notably more apt to believe in the supernatural according to research. This result was expected, say researchers, since agnosticism is defined by not knowing.

Atheists were more staunch in their rejection of supernatural phenomenon, but still tended to embrace certain surprising ideas.

The study, which aggregated atheists from the U.K., the U.S., Japan, Brazil, Denmark, and China, found that respondents from Japan tended to be the least 'supernaturally-inclined' while those from China and Brazil believed in the most.

Not only do some of the 'unbelievers,' accept the idea of some supernatural phenomenon and philosophies, but according to the report, none of the nationalities studied by researchers were considered overwhelming 'naturalists'—a category rejects all supernatural ideas.

'In none of our six countries surveyed does the percentage of unbelievers who qualify as naturalists approach 50 [percent],' reads the report.

'Even among American atheists, the most naturalistic group across our surveyed countries, only a third seem to have a wholly naturalistic world view.'

While the study focused primarily on atheists and agnostics, researchers were also able to compare how the beliefs of 'unbelievers' stacked up against general populations.

According to recent research, even those who purport not to believe in any organized religion accepted at least some supernatural sentiments.

Surprisingly, when it came to the more fundamental tenants of groups' moral codes, the crossover was noticeable.

'There is remarkably high agreement between unbelievers and general populations concerning the values most important for 'finding meaning in the world and your own life.' 'Family' and 'Freedom' ranked highly for all,' reads the report.

Where that commonality seemed to somewhat dissolve, however, were in a few notable categories—among them, 'truth,' 'nature,' and 'science.'

Though the report doesn't explicitly address age, across the world, studies show that among younger generations the instance of 'unbelievers' is vastly more common.

In a recent study by Pew Research, young adults between 18 to 39 were less likely to report that religion is 'very important' to them in 46 out of the 106 countries surveyed.

Whether secularism is on the rise, however, remains to be seen. People tend to become more religious as they age and those who are religious are more likely to have children, meaning those populations may grow much faster than their secular peers.

Graham Lawton, author of the new book 'How to be Human,' suggests that as our lives become more stable, society could become 'godless' as our need for religion fades away.

When children encounter religion, Mr Lawson argues they find the explanations it offers intuitively appealing and believable—making them born believers but this instinct is drummed out of them by education.

The author claimed the reason people continue to be believe it because 'they haven't thought that hard about it.'

However, although the future will be increasingly secular, humans will never totally lose the god instinct.

As long as existential uncertainty exists Mr Lawton claims religion will not disappear completely—even though he believes some of the things in the bible are 'just crazy.'

People cling onto moral guidance and existential comfort and they don't let go of them easily, he said.

His comments are based on the cognitive theory of religion which states that belief is a by-product of our cognitive equipment.

Our brain is primed to see meaning everywhere, which helps us make sense of random events.

Children like the idea that there is order and design in the world and it is actually useful as it allows them to reason about possible threats that we cannot see, for example a predator lurking in a nearby bush.

According to Mr Lawton, although this is an evolutionary advantage, it also facilitates the build-up of delusional belief and a 'feeling of rightness.'

'To be an actual atheist and reject all religious ideas is not humanly possible—we'll still fill that hole with something,' said Mr Lawton.

As long as existential uncertainty exists, Mr Lawton claims religion will not disappear completely.



"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 Alon Einhorn titled "Arabs Riot As Jews Are Allowed to Enter Temple Mount on Jerusalem Day [Beginning on the Evening of June 1 and Ending on the Evening of June 2]" was posted at jpost.com on June 2, 2019.
 - An article titled "Ten Killed in Israeli Attack in Syria Following Rocket Fire" was posted at theguardian.com on June 2, 2019.

- An article by Stephanie Sandoval titled “French Senate Wants Restored Notre Dame to Look Exactly As It Used To” was posted at newsy.com on May 28, 2019.
- An article by Ahmed Jawad titled “EU Says Again That Brexit Deal Is Not Up for Negotiation” was posted at newsy.com on May 28, 2019.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “Saudi King: ‘We Demand the International Community . . . Use All Means to Stop the Iranian Regimeh’ ” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Lee Anne Lowry titled “US Aid for Venezuelans Will Be Distributed in Colombia” was posted at newsy.com on May 31, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled “Protesters Set Fire to U.S. Embassy in Honduras in Second Day of Demonstrations” was posted at reuters.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article titled “India Heatwave Temperatures Pass 50 Celsius [122 Fahrenheit]” was posted at yahoo.com on June 1, 2019.
- An article by Thomas Grove titled “In a Blow to Maduro, Russia Withdraws Key Defense Support to Venezuela” was posted at wsj.com on June 2, 2019.
- An article by Brianna Koeneman titled “30 Years Later, China Defends Bloody Tiananmen Square Crackdown” was posted at newsy.com on June 3, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled “China Expresses ‘Strong Dissatisfaction’ With U.S. Statement on Tiananmen Anniversary” was posted at reuters.com on June 3, 2019.
- An article by Piers Morgan titled “The Real Big Baby in London This Week Is Mayor Khan—A Petty Little Pipsqueak Who’d Shamefully Rather Mock and Humiliate the President of Britain’s Greatest Ally Than Honor the D-Day Heroes of Both Our Nations” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on June 3, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Mike Stone titled “U.S. to Sell 34 Surveillance Drones to Allies in South China Sea Region” was posted at reuters.com on June 3, 2019.



An article by Jim Geraghty titled “The Democrats Prepare Steps to Pare Down their Field of 24 Candidates” was posted at nationalreview.com on May 29, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

The Democratic National Committee makes a decision that won’t be popular, but will be necessary. Starting in September, the presidential primary debates are for serious candidates only.

Debate criteria

The DNC’s outline for its September debate—the third of at least a dozen promised matchups during the 2020 nominating fight—decrees that candi-

dates can participate only by reaching 2% in four approved polls released between June 28 and Aug. 28 while also collecting contributions from a minimum of 130,000 unique donors before Aug. 28.

That donor list must include a minimum of 400 individuals in at least 20 states.

The qualifications would remain the same for an October debate, though the party hasn't set the deadline for measuring fundraising and polling.

Many reasons

It's a rare day when I disagree with Jay Nordlinger. Jay's attitude towards presidential candidates is generally the more, the merrier. In theory, I'd agree with that, but in practice it is clear that in recent cycles, a good chunk of the people running for president aren't really running for president.

Here are some of the reasons why candidates are running.

- More media appearances
- A post-campaign cable-news gig
- Maybe hoping to be picked for vice president or a future cabinet post
- A bigger book deal some years down the road
- Maybe status as the de facto leader of one faction within the party.
- In short, a bunch of these candidates are running because they want to be celebrities.

Ill-prepared

If one third of the field is aspiring celebrities, another third are narcissists who might as well be running on the Dunning-Kruger unity ticket. They haven't done the homework. They haven't really thought through how they would enact their wish-list of policies.

- Half of their ideas would require rewriting the Constitution, not that they checked.
- Some of them barely understand how a bill becomes a law.
- They've practiced their talking points in front of the mirror, and they've convinced themselves that they're ready to sit at Abraham Lincoln's desk.
- Hey, all the paid staffers and sycophants around them assure them that they're ready to make life-and-death decisions!
- Half these candidates don't need a campaign manager, they need a psychiatrist.
- A debate stage that's crowded with wannabes, also-rans and never-weres squeezes out the lesser-known but promising candidates who deserve a fair hearing from primary voters.
- A presidential campaign is not supposed to be a book tour with more speeches than usual.



An article by Jonathan Easley titled "Inside the DNC's Plan to Defeat Trump" was posted at thehill.com on May 31, 2019. Following is the article.

Hundreds of young Democrats will arrive in Atlanta next month to be trained as field organizers in an effort to prepare the party's next generation of operatives to join the eventual nominee's presidential campaign in seven battleground states.

The field organizing program is one of several new initiatives the Democratic National Committee (DNC) has implemented under Chairman Tom Perez, whose two-year-long overhaul of the national party has focused on building out the DNC's campaign infrastructure, data and cybersecurity programs.

That means the potential for more paid staff on the ground in the states that will determine the outcome of the 2020 election, a revamped "war room" with a focus on President Trump's first-term record and a cybersecurity system the DNC hopes will withstand Russian hacking efforts.

In an interview with *The Hill* from the Democrats' national headquarters in Washington, Perez detailed the DNC's 2020 battle plan and core mission, which he said is twofold.

- To ensure that primary voters have confidence in the nominating process.
- To hand the eventual nominee the resources and infrastructure he or she will need to defeat Trump from the moment that person walks off the stage from the convention in Milwaukee.

All of that will have to be accomplished with a budget that is only a fraction of what the Republican National Committee will spend, and Perez acknowledged that taking out an incumbent president "won't be easy."

"I don't underestimate him for a moment," Perez said, lighting up with anger as the conversation turned to Trump. "I don't underestimate their capacity to lie, cheat and steal to get elected . . . This is going to be a challenge."

The DNC has launched an institution called Organizing Corps 2020, which will train 1,000 college-aged students to be the next wave of Democratic operatives and to prepare them to potentially join the 2020 presidential campaign.

Perez will address the first round of 300 participants at a five-day national training seminar next month in Atlanta, where the group will be coached by campaign veterans on field organizing and data analytics.

Attendees are paid \$4,000 over the course of the eight-week programs, which will also take place in Charlotte, Detroit, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Milwaukee, Orlando, Phoenix, Philadelphia and Tampa.

Seventy-five percent of program entrants are people of color, and 90 percent come from one of seven potential swing states: Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

After training, the young Democrats will return to their home states ready to join the field team for the eventual nominee, although positions on the campaign are not guaranteed.

The organizing principle behind the training program is that voters will be more receptive to Democratic outreach if it's coming from locals within the community who intimately know the culture and nuances of their own neighborhoods.

"Hillary Clinton was handed a very substandard infrastructure writ large, including, but not limited to, a lack of organizing infrastructure," Perez said, relaxing on the brown leather sofa in his office overlooking South Capitol Street.

"In 2008, Barack Obama . . . had the capacity to build his own organizing and technological infrastructure," Perez continued. "He had the resources and the human capital to do it. Fast forward to 2020 and in a field that's as large as we have, there's nobody in a position to do what Obama did in 2008. That's why the role of the DNC is so important."

Perez broke into a smile when he brought up Obama. The DNC chairman was a civil rights attorney in the Obama Justice Department, and there's a picture in his office of himself and the former president in the Oval Office.

Elsewhere, Perez has repurposed the DNC's war room to battle Republicans over the narrative of the Trump presidency.

The DNC claims to be in possession of the world's most comprehensive trove of research on Trump. The war room is staffed by dozens of operatives, many of whom are veterans of Clinton's 2016 campaign and have been building opposition research files on Trump since he first burst on to the political scene in 2015.

Their files include more than 7,000 lawsuits, volumes of Freedom of Information Act requests and hours of video footage. The DNC claims its war room has placed bombshell stories in the press that have derailed Trump administration nominees and has introduced key themes, such as Trump's conflicts of interests around his business empire, into the mainstream.

In 2020, Perez says the focus will be on holding Trump accountable for the promises he made on the campaign trail in 2016, such as lowering prescription drug prices, making health care more affordable and keeping factories open.

"A lot of Obama-Trump voters saw [Trump] as a change agent," Perez said. "They saw him as a different kind of politician who was going to bring about change . . . and what they're seeing is that yeah, he's a different kind of politician in the sense that . . . he is perhaps the most corrupt politician in American history . . . and now he has a record and a trail of broken promises."

The DNC has also overhauled its data platform as it seeks to close the gap with the Republican National Committee, which invested heavily in data under former Chairman Reince Priebus.

When Perez took over in early 2017, the national party was using an antiquated system that was four years beyond its shelf life and required users to understand complicated coding language to access voter information files.

The DNC now has access to a state-of-the-art data warehouse and a Google-run cloud-based infrastructure that has added millions of new cellphone numbers in just the last year.

"If we had 40 people running for president, we'd have the capacity to handle their data and deal with their data and tech needs," Perez said. "And the data warehouse isn't simply for the presidential candidates, it's for every [Democratic] candidate running up and down the ballot."

That means an enormous investment to safeguard the data and avoid a repeat of the 2016 hacking fiasco, which undermined confidence in the national party and continues to hamper the DNC's fundraising efforts.

Last year, the DNC hired Bob Lord, a veteran cybersecurity officer at Yahoo and Twitter, to oversee its data security.

Reminders to DNC staff to be mindful of their passwords and potential hacking attempts are everywhere—even in the men's bathrooms, where signs hang on the walls with the steps workers must take to keep their data safe.

The DNC's cyber tripwires were triggered at one point last year. It turned out to be a false alarm, but Perez said the dry run was executed seamlessly, giving him confidence that the DNC is ready to deal with an attempted breach in the real world.

The Hill asked Perez if he could guarantee the DNC would not be hacked this cycle.

"Anyone who tells you they're hermetically cyber secure is fooling you," he said. "Cybersecurity is an arms war. What we've done, I believe, is make it a lot more difficult and expensive for the bad guys to try and infiltrate."



An article by Ryan Cleckner titled "6 Gun Lies (And One Truth) Obama Told in Brazil" was posted at thefederalist.com on May 31, 2019. Following is the article.

On May 30, former president Barack Obama was a keynote speaker at an event in Brazil. The event, VTEX Day, is billed as "the largest digital innovation event in Latin America."

During a conversation with a host on stage during the digital innovation event, Obama took the opportunity to speak negatively about U.S. gun laws.

He said, "Our gun laws in the United States don't make much sense. Anybody can buy any weapon, any time, without much, if any, regulation. They can buy [guns] over the internet, they can buy machine guns."

His statement to a foreign audience includes six lies about our gun laws and one truth.

One true statement

Let's start out on a positive note and cover the one true statement first.

"Gun laws in the United States don't make much sense."

On this, Obama and I agree. I doubt, however, that we share the same reasoning.

Firearms in the United States are regulated by myriad, and often nonsensical or conflicting, laws and regulations.

Here are just a couple examples of our absurd gun laws.

- If a plastic foregrip is added to an AR-15 pistol, without federal paperwork approved, taxes paid, engravings made, and months of wait-time, it is an illegal firearm. However, an AR-15 rifle with the exact same operating mechanism and cartridge fired may have the same foregrip added without consequence.

- A handgun with a rifled barrel (twisting grooves for bullet spin) that fires a shotgun shell is a standard firearm. However, the same handgun with a smooth barrel is a highly regulated firearm.

- A semi-auto shotgun made in America may hold more than five shotgun shells. However, if the same shotgun were imported, it may not.

Well, that was easy—we've covered all of Obama's true statements. Now let's tackle the lies.

1. Anybody Can Buy a Firearm

False.

There are three major federal restrictions on who may purchase firearms in the United States (not including the many state and local restrictions).

The first category of persons who may not purchase firearms under federal law is based on age. Persons under 21 years of age may not purchase handguns from a gun dealer, and persons under 18 years of age may not purchase rifles nor shotguns.

The second category of persons who may not purchase firearms under federal law are referred to as "prohibited persons."

This category includes the following.

- Felons

- Those convicted of domestic violence
- Unlawful users of controlled substances
- Illegal aliens
- Those subject to certain restraining orders
- Those adjudicated as mental defectives or committed to mental institutions
- Fugitives
- Veterans with dishonorable discharges

The third major category includes non-U.S. citizens.

Additionally, various state and local laws prohibit persons from purchasing firearms unless a special permit or license is issued by that state. For example, Massachusetts requires the possession of a valid Firearm Owner Identification Card for any person to purchase a firearm.

2. Any Firearm Can Be Purchased

False.

Under federal law, machine guns made after 1986 may not be purchased by civilians (more on this under lie No. 5 below). Also, the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) regulates other firearms which may be purchased, but clearly not in the way insinuated by Obama's comments (more on this under lie No. 3 below).

Various state and local laws prohibit entire categories of firearms from being purchased, either by their features or by name. For example, AR-15-style rifles may not be purchased in Connecticut and any firearm not on a specified list (most models of handguns introduced in the past few years) may not be purchased in California.

3. A Firearm Can Be Purchased at Any Time

False.

When purchasing a firearm from a federally licensed gun dealer (FFL), background-check requirements must be satisfied. In most cases, this includes a background check being run through the federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). However, many states use their own background check system.

If a background check is required (all sales except for some states that exempt concealed weapon permit holders), then a firearm may only be purchased during the hours of operation of the relevant background check system.

Federal background checks may only be run between 8 a.m. and 1 a.m. Eastern and some state systems, like Tennessee for example, operate between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Central.

Within the statement that a firearm can be purchased at any time is also the inference that a firearm may be purchased anywhere. This is also false. For example, handguns may only be purchased in a person's state of residence. Therefore, if a person wants to purchase a handgun while he is out of his home state, that is a time at which he is not permitted to purchase a firearm.

For the class of firearms covered by the NFA, such as short-barreled rifles, a purchaser must wait until certain paperwork is approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). This wait time is often up to 10 months. Clearly this is a restriction on the time at which certain firearms may be purchased and possessed.

Additionally, some states have mandatory waiting periods before certain purchases.

4. Firearms Can Be Purchased with Few Regulations

False.

If you've been paying attention so far, the United States has many regulations on the purchase and possession of firearms.

5. Firearms Can Be Purchased Over the Internet

False (well, at least in the way the comment was likely meant).

It seems clear that Obama wants people to think that a gun can be purchased online and shipped straight to a purchaser's home like any other online purchase. This is not true.

It is technically true that firearms may be purchased online. However, when a person purchases a firearm online from an out-of-state retailer, the firearm must first be shipped to a local FFL, where the purchaser must appear in person to fill out the federally required paperwork and satisfy the background check requirements.

Therefore, although it is true that the payment may be made online, the firearm may not be purchased over the internet like any other unregulated product.

6. Anyone Can Purchase a Machine Gun

False.

First, see lie No. 2 above. "Anyone" may not purchase a firearm, let alone a machine gun.

Second, machine guns made after 1986 may not be purchased nor possessed by an ordinary civilian. These machine guns may only be purchased or possessed by FFLs or government entities.

Machine guns made before 1986 are still NFA firearms and may only be purchased after the extensive paperwork and wait times that accompany all NFA firearm purchases. Additionally, some local laws outright ban the possession of any machine guns.

If politicians want us to take them seriously in discussions about our firearm laws, they need to stop lying about these laws. Misrepresenting firearms laws does nothing to help reduce gun violence.

In fact, the enforcement, or in many cases like gun-free zones, reducing our current laws is what we need. Any call for more gun control is an admission that gun control doesn't work.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Guns & Sons of Guns" was posted at patriotpост.us on June 1, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

If you wonder why the Democrats and their media pets haven't made a bigger deal of the Highlands Ranch High School shootings, the answer, I suspect, can be traced to the fact that one of the shooters is Devon Erickson, a registered Democrat, Obama-loving, anti-Trump, Christian-hating, 18-year-old.

His partner in crime is 16-year-old Maya McKinney, who just happens to be a biological girl who is transitioning, as they like to say, to a boy named Alec.

If a shooting can't be blamed on a Republican, preferably a MAGA-cap wearing Conservative, suddenly the Liberals aren't nearly as interested in making guns and the law-abiding folks who own them the scapegoats for all of America's problems.

■ Immigration

There's no way on earth that Trump's latest plan to revise the rules for legal immigration will gain any more traction among congressional Democrats than his plan for building a wall to keep the illegal riffraff out.

But by calling for a merit-based system based on technical and language skills, and not whether a more recent batch of illegal aliens happens to be related to an earlier group, Trump has brought to the forefront the one issue, besides a flourishing economy, he should be able to use to run roughshod over his opponent in next year's election.

Plus, it might even make it possible for the Republicans to regain control of the House, although, considering that their respective districts are so full of dummies and Muslims, it's probably too much to expect that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, will be turned out.

Speaking of illegal aliens, I can't help wondering how many of the latest batch of anchor babies are the result of their mothers being raped on their way from Central America. I doubt if their rapists were considerate enough to worry about wearing condoms.

■ Abortion a constitutional right?

In a related matter, Bernie Sanders insists that abortions are a constitutional right. Amy Klobuchar agrees with him. And these people, I'll remind you, are U.S. senators.

■ The right to privacy?

The excuse the seven Supreme Court justices responsible came up with to justify Roe v. Wade becoming the law of the land was by deciding that the 4th Amendment guaranteed a woman the right to privacy.

One, privacy appears nowhere in the Constitution. Two, by using that type of logic, it could be decided that murder is constitutional because the killer, male or female, has the exact same right to privacy.

Those advocating for Roe v. Wade told us that abortions would be "safe, legal and rare." Forty-six years and roughly 50 million abortions later, the best they can come up with is, "Well, two out of three ain't bad."

■ Beto is sinking

I suppose it's because I don't believe any of the twerps can defeat Trump in 2020 that I'm getting such a kick out of watching his two dozen would-be opponents jockeying for position.

One of the most amusing is Beto O'Rourke. Probably because he's sinking in the polls and desperate people do desperate things, he's my favorite.

The lummoX started out by sharing a video of a dentist working on his teeth. Moving on, he more recently allowed us to watch him getting a haircut.

I can't help wondering what's next, a home video of young Beto being potty-trained? Beto undergoing a colonoscopy? Stay tuned.

■ John Durham

If anyone is going to get to the bottom of the sleazy Mueller investigation, my money is on John Durham. One look at that bearded bald guy with his ice-cold glower, and I know if I had anything to do with using the Russian dossier to obtain the phony FISA warrants, I would be checking out which countries don't have extradition treaties with the U.S.

What's more, if I were James Comey, Andrew McCabe, Peter Strzok, Bruce Ohr, John Brennan, James Clapper or Lisa Page, I would make certain my passport was up to date and I would definitely have my travel agent on speed-dial.

■ Don't count on John Roberts

Some people are being encouraged by the recent developments in Alabama and Georgia, where governors and state legislators are passing laws that severely limit abortions. They're hoping that as the push against the laws wends its way through the courts, it will eventually wind up before the Supreme Court, where they hope that Trump's nominees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh will lead the Court in reversing Roe v. Wade.

I hate to rain on their parade, but unless Trump has the opportunity to replace Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I don't believe it will happen. That's because I doubt if Chief Justice John Roberts has the judicial will or temperament to reverse legal precedence especially when it comes to such a controversial issue as abortion.

As he showed when he decided that the Affordable Care Act was legitimate because it was a tax, even though Obama's lawyers had argued it wasn't, Roberts' first priority is to preserve what he regards as the Court's reputation rather than respecting the words of the Constitution.

■ Clever sayings

Someone sent me a bunch of memes, which bear repeating, starting with "The best thing about being over 40 is that we did our stupid stuff before the invention of the Internet, so there's no proof!"

"The man who invented Autocorrect has just died. His funfair is next Monkey."

"If you stir coconut oil into your kale, it makes it a lot easier to scrape it into the trash can."

"If smoking marijuana causes short memory loss, what does smoking marijuana do?"

"In 1999, young people were being told not to get in a car with strangers. In 2009, we were told not to meet up with people we encounter on the Internet. In 2019, Uber and Lyft are telling us to order a ride over the Internet from a stranger."

"No matter how big and tough we may think we are, when a two-year-old hands you a toy phone, you answer it."



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Crazy Times, Crazy People" was posted at patriotpost.us on June 3, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

One of the many things that has gone missing in America is a sense of standards. I first became aware of this decades ago when white firemen sued their home towns for ignoring objective tests for promotion by tipping the scales in favor of blacks.

Soon, the same type of favoritism was being applied by colleges when blacks and Latinos were gaining admission ahead of better white and Asian students.

Here in L.A., height standards for police officers were tossed out because female and Latino applicants often fell short. The belief had been that taller cops were more likely to intimidate criminals. I don't know if that's true, but I do know that if women and Latinos were taller than white men, nobody would have changed the height requirements in order to accommodate them.

■ Homes without fathers

Black women are five times likelier than white women to have abortions. To which I say, shame on black women. But more shame on black men, most of whom refuse to man-up and marry the women they've impregnated.

Even when abortion isn't on the table, 70% of the kids are growing up in homes without fathers. Should anyone really be surprised that the boys are growing up undisciplined, far more likely to end up in prison than to wind up being educated and with the ability to earn an honest living?

■ Mazie Hirono

Crazy Mazie Hirono, the ditzy senator from Hawaii, gleefully reported that she'd asked 8th graders if they thought the government should be telling women that they can't have abortions and not a single student thought the government had that right.

For my part, I think the ignoramus should be kept out of 8th grade classrooms unless it's for the purpose of taking remedial English.

It's possible that Sen. Hirono is simply guilty of taking the New York Times far more seriously than anyone should. It was, after all, the rag formerly known as the paper of record that recently ran a headline that read: "Pregnancy Kills, Abortions Save Lives."

■ Amazing slogans

It's reminiscent of the first chapter of George Orwell's "1984," in which Big Brother's slogans were listed: "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery" and "Ignorance is Strength."

Today, it's the Democrats who have adopted these slogans as their own.

■ Wanting to be VP?

The fact that Peter Buttigieg has been focusing most of his rage on Mike Pence, not Donald Trump, strongly suggests that at least subconsciously he is campaigning in the hope of winding up as someone's vice presidential running mate.

■ American Taliban

It seems that John Walker Lindh, who was nicknamed the American Taliban after being captured in Afghanistan where he had waged war against American soldiers, has been granted early release after serving 17 years of a 20-year sentence.

This in spite of the fact that he has never shown remorse for killing Americans on the battlefield and has, moreover, continued to advocate on behalf of Islamic terrorism.

■ How much longer?

The question is how much longer are President Trump and Attorney General Barr going to continue to allow states and cities to ignore federal law before they begin arresting scofflaw governors, mayors, judges and police officials.

■ Hypocrisy of Kamala Harris

It's never a big shock when a left-wing politician is shown to be a hypocrite, but it nevertheless always calls for full disclosure. So when Sen. Kamala Harris constantly announces on the campaign trail that when she's in the Oval Office she will demand that employers pay their male and female employees the exact same salaries, nobody should be too surprised that she means employers who are not named Kamala Harris.

It seems that she pays men more than women both in her Senate office and those working on her campaign.

■ Avenatti forged her signature

It turns out that Stormy Daniels was being royally screwed. Not by Donald Trump, but by her own lawyer. It seems she was being reamed by none other than Michael Avenatti, dubbed "the creepy porn lawyer" by Tucker Carlson.

On top of all the other criminal charges he stands accused of, Avenatti pocketed half the \$800,000 she was paid by a book publisher by forging her signature.

■ Media promoted Avenatti

This is the same sleazebag who was being turned into a mythical folk hero who was half Robin Hood, half Jack the Giant Killer, for no other reason by CNN and MSNBC than that he could be counted upon to insult the President every time he appeared on TV.

They were even promoting him as a presidential candidate.

Of course now that he stands to go to prison for 404 years, that might have to be the campaign of 2424.

■ Pork and chickens to China

Joe Neuner has let me know that Smithfield Farms, the largest pork producing outfit in the U.S. was sold to China. The hogs will still be raised here but slaughtered and packaged in China.

The same thing is happening with chickens.

When the meat products are then sold in our supermarkets and peddled to schools and fast food restaurants, they will be labeled "Raised in the USA."

■ Only joking?

Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez now claims that she was only joking when she predicted the world's end by 2030, and that only stupid people took her seriously, but that we should still implement her Green New Deal for the greater good. Patrick Miano voiced skepticism. "She sounded pretty serious to me."

To me, as well, especially when she kept repeating her "joke."

Mr. Miano surmises that the woman is “drunk with her own celebrity. I wonder if she would get so much attention if she were fat, old, ugly or a man.”

I replied: “My guess, based on the amount of attention that Bernie Sanders receives, is that she would.”

■ Bank of America

As long as I’m warning you folks to avoid chicken and pork processed in China, I might as well warn you what the Bank of America has been up to.

It seems that the bank, which you’d think would go out of its way to avoid controversy, has not only contributed \$50,000 to Planned Parenthood, but also participated as a corporate sponsor of a Planned Parenthood event where Hillary Clinton was presented with something called the “Champion of the Century” award.

You might wish to consider keeping your money in your mattress. After all, your mattress will pay you roughly the same amount of interest.

■ Cher’s common sense deleted

After Cher tweeted: “I understand helping struggling immigrants but my city [Los Angeles] isn’t taking care of its own. What about 50,000-plus citizens who live on the streets and those people who live below the poverty line? If L.A. can’t take care of its own (many are vets), how can it take care of more?”

The surprise is that the proud Never-Trumper was capable of expressing so much commonsense and that the high school dropout didn’t make any spelling mistakes.

What wasn’t the least bit surprising is that when her tweet was applauded by Conservatives and viciously attacked by her fellow Hollywood pinheads, she quickly deleted the message.



An article by Gabrielle Olya titled “States With the Highest Property Taxes” was posted at yahoo.com on June 4, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

In some states, the average property tax rate is over 2 percent—which might not seem like a lot, but because of the high cost of real estate in some states, that amount can really add up.

To determine the states with the highest property taxes, GOBankingRates looked at the property tax rates by state and each state’s median home value to determine how much the average resident is actually paying in property taxes.

10. California

- Average state property tax rate: 0.813 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$3,237

California is actually one of the states with the lowest property tax rates, but it has the second-most expensive homes of all the states, so residents end up paying the 10th-highest property taxes by state on average. The median home value in the Golden State is \$539,800.

9. Wisconsin

- Average state property tax rate: 1.969 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$3,257

Wisconsin is one of the states with the highest property tax rates. Even though the median home value there is \$178,600, which is on the lower end, a high tax rate means residents pay over \$3,000 in real estate property taxes on average.

8. Vermont

- Average state property tax rate: 1.719 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$3,893

Vermont's property tax rate is the ninth-highest of all the states. Coupled with a median home value of \$195,000, residents end up paying nearly \$4,000 in property taxes on average. The high property tax rate makes Vermont one of the states where Americans pay the most in taxes.

7. Rhode Island

- Average state property tax rate: 1.610 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$3,929

The median home value in Rhode Island is \$276,000, which is among the highest of all the states. And its property taxes are the 10th-highest, so residents can get hit hard with how much they end up having to pay.

6. Illinois

- Average state property tax rate: 2.253 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$4,058

Illinois' median home value is \$174,300—which is well below the national median. But the state's property tax rate is the second-highest in the country.

5. Massachusetts

- Average state property tax rate: 1.181 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$4,132

Massachusetts has the third-highest median home value of all the states—\$398,300—so even though its property tax rate isn't among the highest, the amount residents end up paying is.

4. New York

- Average state property tax rate: 1.578 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$4,738

New York's property tax rate and home prices are both among the highest in the U.S. The median home value in the Empire State is \$282,100.

3. New Hampshire

Average state property tax rate: 2.104 percent

Median real estate taxes paid: \$5,241

New Hampshire's state property tax rate is the third-highest in the country, and its median home value—\$266,100—is also on the higher end compared to other states.

2. Connecticut

- Average state property tax rate: 1.910 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$5,443

Connecticut's property tax rate is the sixth-highest of all the states. And its median home value is among the highest in the U.S. at \$240,300.

1. New Jersey

- Average state property tax rate: 2.293 percent
- Median real estate taxes paid: \$7,601

New Jersey tops the list of states with the worst property taxes. It has the highest state property tax rate and the seventh-highest median home value in the country, so residents end up paying more in property taxes here than any other state in the U.S. The median home value in the Garden State is \$318,300.



"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.

Finances

- An article by Cody Leach titled "California Gov. Gavin Newsom Pushes for \$2 Billion in New Taxes and Fees" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Tom Demeropolis titled "Nation's Largest Engineering Firm [Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.] Moving 400 High-Paying Jobs to Sharonville [Ohio]" was posted at bizjournals.com on June 3, 2019.

- An article by Elizabeth Winkler titled "The Mall Meltdown Continues" was posted at wsj.com on June 3, 2019.

Tariffs

- An article by George F. Will titled "Tariffs a Government Disease Masquerading As Cure" was posted at news-journal.com on May 30, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Dave Graham titled "Mexican President Says Country Will 'Overcome' Trump Threats, Urges National Unity" was posted at reuters.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Ma Jie and Maiko Takahashi titled "Carmakers See \$18 Billion Wiped Out by Trump's Mexico Threat" was posted at bloomberg.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Ryan McMorrow and Sebastien Ricci titled "China to Create Company Blacklist As US Trade Escalates" was posted at yahoo.com on May 31, 2019.
- A Reuters article by Neha Dasgupta titled "India Plays Down Trump Decision to Remove U.S. Trade Privileges" was posted at reuters.com on June 1, 2019.
- An article by Tony Czuczka titled "China Targets FedEx in 'Warning' to U.S." was posted at bloomberg.com on June 1, 2019.
- An article by Don Lee titled "For the U.S. and China, It's Not a Trade War Anymore—It's Something Worse" was posted at latimes.com on June 1, 2019.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "U.S. Chamber of Commerce: We Have to Persuade Trump to Think Twice About Tariffs" was posted at townhall.com on June 2, 2019.
- An article by Katie Cammarata titled "US and Mexican Officials Begin Higher Level Talks About Tariff Threat" was posted at newsy.com on June 3, 2019.

Green New Deal

- An article by Trevor Thomas titled "With Abortion and Socialism, Democrats Are Peddling Slavery Again" was posted at americanthinker.com on May 28, 2019.
- An article by Reid Wilson titled "[Former Governor John] Hickenlooper Booed in San Francisco for Denouncing Socialism" was posted at thehill.com on June 1, 2019.
- An article by Alexander Nazaryan titled "Discounting Climate Change, EPA Chief [Andrew Wheeler] Faults the Media for the Rise of Bad Environmental News" was posted at yahoo.com on June 3, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by John Binder titled "Nearly 9-in-10 Illegal Aliens Recently Released Into U.S. Not Showing Up to Court Hearings" was posted at Breitbart.com on May 30, 2019.

- An article titled "Border Patrol Says It Found Largest-Ever Migrant Group [1,036 Crossed Illegally]" was posted at usatoday.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by John Binder titled "Feds: Only 11 Employers Prosecuted for Hiring Illegal Aliens in Last Year" was posted at breitbart.com on June 2, 2019.
- A Reuters article titled "U.S. Judge [Trevor McFadden of the District of Columbia] Denies Democrats' Lawsuit to Stop Border All Funds" was posted at reuters.com on June 3, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Sara Gregory, Jane Harper and Alissa Skelton titled "13 Dead, Including Gunman, in Shooting at Virginia Beach Municipal Center" was posted at pilotonline.com (The Virginian-Pilot) on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Alice Yin titled "Most Violent Weekend in Chicago This Year: At Least 52 Shot, 8 Fatally" was posted at chicagotribune.com on June 3, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Victor Davis Hanson titled "Federal Rats Are Fleeing the Sinking Collusion Ship" was posted at townhall.com on May 23, 2019.
- An article by Katie Cammarata titled "Missouri Could Become the Only US State Without An Abortion Clinic" was posted at newsy.com on May 29, 2019.
- An article by Patrick J. Buchanan titled "What a Hash Mueller Made of It" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Stephen Dinan titled "Trump Administration Oversees Five-Year High in Approved Citizenship Applications" was posted at washington-times.com on May 31, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by David Martosko titled "50 House Democrats and 1 Lone Republican Are Now Calling for Trump's Impeachment—But Nancy Pelosi Is Keeping Her Powder Dry As Public Opinion Is Against It" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Alexander Nazaryan titled "How Sen. Mazie Hirono Became Trump's Toughest Democratic Critic" was posted at yahoo.com on June 4, 2019.
- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Rachel Maddow Asks [Former Governor John] Hickenlooper: Why Aren't You [And Other Democratic Candidates] Running for Senate?" was posted at townhall.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Edward-Isaac Dovey titled "Bernie Sanders Tries to Reclaim the Insurgency" was posted at theatlantic.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Alexander Bolton titled "Sanders Banking on Iowa Win to Surge Past Biden" was posted at thehill.com on May 31, 2019.

- An article by Daniel Strauss titled “Buttigieg Campaign, Brimming With Cash, Staffs Up” was posted at politico.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Timothy Meads titled “[Republican] John Kasich Says ‘No Path’ to Beat Trump [in a Republican Primary], But Is ‘Keeping All Options on the Table’ for 2020” was posted at townhall.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Elura Nanos titled “Taylor Swift Slams Donald Trump for Hypocrisy in LGBTQ Policies” was posted at lawandcrime.com on June 1, 2019.
- An article titled “Taylor Swift Dressed in Head-To-Toe Rainbow to Kick Off Pride Month” was posted at glamour.com on June 2, 2019.
- An article by Mary Papenfuss titled “Trump Camp Rebuts Trump Calling Meghan Markle Nasty—With Clip of Him Calling Her Nasty” was posted at huffpost.com on June 1, 2019.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Tamar Lapin titled “Animal-Rights Protester Poaches Mic From Sen. Kamala Harris” was posted at nypost.com on June 2, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O’Rourke

- An article by Michael Tomasky titled “Beto O’Rourke? Yes He Can (Earn a Second Chance)” was posted at thedailybeast.com on June 2, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Mary Papenfuss titled “Fox News’ Shepard Smith Slams President’s Baseless Attacks on ‘Nevr-Trumper’ Mueller” was posted at huffpost.com on May 30, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Kevin Williams and Alan Binder titled “Kansas City-Area Tornadoes Add to 12 Straight Days of Destruction” was posted at nytimes.com on May 28, 2019.
- An article by Brad Tuttle titled “Mackenzie Bezos Is Worth \$36 Billion and Plans on Giving Away Money ‘Until the Safe Is Empty’ ” was posted at yahoo.com on May 28, 2019.
- An article by Vicky Baker titled “The Preachers Getting Rich From Poor Americans” was posted at bbc.com on May 29, 2019.
- An article by Joseph A. Wulfsohn titled “Ted Cruz Praises AOC on Banning Lawmakers From Becoming Lobbyists: ‘I Agree With Her!’ ” was posted at foxnews.com on May 30, 2019.
- An article by George F. Will titled “Is the Individual Obsolete?” was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 31, 2019.
- An article by Rev. Micah Fries titled “Pro-Life Laws Are Needed, But They Aren’t Enough” was posted at new-journal.com on June 1, 2019.

- An article by David Warren titled “Texas Struggles to Keep Pace As Thirst for Water Intensifies [As 1,000 People Arrive in Texas Each Day]” was posted at star-telegram.com on June 1, 2019.
- An article by Chloe Brotheridge titled “Want to Improve Your Life? Just Learn to Say No” was posted at theguardian.com on June 2, 2019.
- An article by Andrea Castillo and Rong-Gong Lin titled “Series of Small Quakes Felt Across Inland Empire, A ‘Perennial Hotspot’ for Tremblors” was posted at latimes.com on June 3, 2019.
- An article titled “Quest Diagnostics Says Up to 12 Million Patients May Have Had Financial, Medical, Personal Information Breached” was posted at nbc-newyork.com on June 3, 2019.
- An article by Isabel Roy titled “The 3 Rides Every Disney World Visitor Should Go on Twice [Are Kilimanjaro Safari, The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror and Star Tours—the Adventure Continues]” was posted at yahoo.com on June 3, 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.”