Eye on the World Aug. 3, 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 churchofgodbigsandy.com for the weekend of August 3, 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).

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An article by Ryan Pickrell titled "Why a Russian Warship in the Caribbean Was Tailed by An American Destroyer" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 28, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

One of Russia's most advanced warships is sailing around in the Caribbean, but it's not alone: the U.S. Navy has dispatched a destroyer to keep a close eye on it.

The Admiral Gorshkov, the first of a new class of Russian frigates built for power projection, arrived in Havana, Cuba on Monday accompanied by the multipurpose logistics vessel Elbrus, the sea tanker Kama, and the rescue tug Nikolai Chiker, the *Associated Press* reported.

The Russian warship made headlines earlier this year when Russia reported that it was arming the vessel with a new weapon—the electro-optic Filin 5P-42—that emits an oscillating beam of high-intensity light designed to cause temporary blindness, disorientation, and even nausea.

The U.S. military said Wednesday that it is monitoring the Russian ship's activities.

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham was operating roughly 50 miles north of Havana as of Tuesday morning, USNI News reported, citing ship tracking data. The Navy told the outlet that it was monitoring the situation. Admiral Gorshkov entered the Caribbean Sea via the Panama Canal on June 18. The ship departed its homeport of Severomorsk in February and has since traveled over 28,000 nautical miles, making stops in China, Djibouti, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and now Cuba.

The warship is preparing to make port calls at several locations across the Caribbean, the Associated Press reported, citing the Russian Navy, which has not disclosed the purpose of the trip.

Over the past decade, Russia has occasionally sent warships into the Caribbean. While these deployments are typically perceived as power plays, Russia characterizes them as routine. Russia has also sent Tu-160 strategic bombers into the area, most recently in December of last year.

While Russian ships have made visits to the Caribbean in the past, this trip comes at a time when the U.S. militaries are finding themselves in close proximity. For instance, in early June, a Russian destroyer nearly collided with a U.S. cruiser in the Pacific, an incident that came just a few days after a Russian fighter jet aggressively buzzed a Navy aircraft over the Mediterranean Sea.

Russia also sent ships of its Baltic Fleet to monitor the NATO BALTOPS 2019 exercises held in mid-June near Russia. These exercises involved ships and aircraft from 16 NATO allies and two partner countries.

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An article by Sabastien Roblin titled "Why the U.S. Navy Flat-Out Said 'No' to Nuclear Weapons on Aircraft Carriers" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 27, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

In the United States, it was assumed that nuclear weapons would be widely employed in future conflicts, rendering conventional land armies and fleets at sea irrelevant.

In the wake of the mushroom clouds that blossomed over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it swiftly dawned on political and military leaders across the globe that warfare between superpowers would never again be the same.

But what exactly were the implications of nuclear weapons when it came to planning military force structure?

In the United States, it was assumed that nuclear weapons would be widely employed in future conflicts, rendering conventional land armies and fleets at sea irrelevant. The newly formed Air Force particularly argued that carrier task forces and armored divisions were practically obsolete when (ostensibly) just a few air-dropped nuclear bombs could annihilate them in one fell swoop.

The Air Force touted it soon-to-be operational fleet of ten-thousand-mile-range B-36 Peacemaker nuclear bombers as the only vital war-winning weapon of the nuclear age. This logic resonated conveniently with the postwar political program mandating sharp cuts to U.S. defense spending and force structure which the Air Force naturally argued should fall upon the Army and Navy.

The Army responded by devising "Pentomic Divisions" organized for nuclear battlefields, with weapons ranging from nuclear-armed howitzers and rocket artillery to bazooka-like Davy Crockett recoilless guns. The Navy, meanwhile, sought to find a way to integrate nuclear bombs into its carrier air wings. However, early nuclear bombs were simply too heavy for World War II-era carrier-based aircraft.

In 1945, the Navy began commissioning three larger forty-five-thousand-ton Midway-class carriers which incorporated armored flight decks for added survivability. The decks were swiftly modified to angular, effectively lengthened configuration for jet operations. Neptune P2V-C3 maritime patrol planes converted into nuclear bombers could take off from Midway-class carriers using rocket-pods but would have no way landing on the carrier deck.

Therefore, the Navy decided it needed huge supercarriers from which it could operate its own fifty-ton strategic bombers. These would displace over 40 percent more than the Midway at sixty-eight thousand tons, and measure 12 percent longer at 330-meters.

In July 1948, Defense Secretary James Forrestal approved plans for five such carriers, the first named USS United States with hull number CVA-58.

The naval heavy bombers (which didn't exist yet) were expected to have such wide wings that naval architects decided that CVA-58 would have a completely flush deck without the standard "island" superstructure carrying a radar and flight control tower.

Instead, the carrier would feature side-mounted telescoping smokestacks that could be raised should smoke impeded flight operations, and a similarly retractable wheelhouse that could be extended to observe navigation and flight operations.

The ship's air wings would include twelve to eighteen heavy bombers that would mostly remain parked on the flight deck, exposed to the elements. Four side-mounted elevators would ferry forty to fifty-four jet fighters between the hangar and flight deck to escort the bombers.

Eight nuclear bombs per heavy bomber would also be stowed in the hangar. The combined ship's company and airwing would total 5,500 personnel.

The carrier's oddly-shaped deck included four steam catapults—two for use by bombers, and two axial "waist" catapults.

Because the ship would be effectively blind without an elevated radar and control tower, a separate cruiser was intended to serve as the carrier's "eyes." Nonetheless, CVA-58 still incorporated eight 5-inch guns for air defense, and dozens of rapid-fire short-range cannons.

"Revolt of the Admirals"

Though theoretically capable of contributing to conventional strike and sea control missions, the heavy bomber-equipped CVA-58 was clearly an attempt by the Navy to duplicate the Air Force's strategic nuclear strike capabilities.

This put giant crosshairs on the program during an era of sharp defense cuts. After all, deploying strategic bombers at sea was many times more expensive than basing them on land.

Following his reelection in November 1948, President Harry Truman replaced Forrestal—a naval aviator in World War I, and former secretary of the Navy—with Louis Johnson, who had fewer qualms about enforcing defense spending cuts.

In April 1949, just five days after CVA-58's fifteen-ton keel was laid down in Newport News, Virginia, Johnson canceled the mega-carrier. He also began advocating dissolution of the Marine Corps, starting by transferring its aviation assets to the Air Force.

This upset the Navy bigwigs so much that Navy Secretary John Sullivan resigned, and numerous admirals began openly opposing the termination of a project they viewed as essential to validating their branch's existence in the nuclear age.

This "Revolt of the Admirals" developed into a crisis in civil-military relations, as the Navy's top brass defied the authority of their civilian commander-inchief and resorted to covert methods in an attempt to influence public opinion.

The Op-23 naval intelligence unit formed by Adm. Louis Denfeld secretly circulated a memo called the Worth Paper alleging that Johnson had corrupt motivations due to being a former director of Convair, manufacturer of B-36 bombers, which were also claimed to be deficient.

The bitter inter-service rivalry, and the utility of land-based bombers versus carriers, was publicly litigated in congressional hearings. The Army also piled on against the Navy, and public opinion turned against the sea-warfare branch as Op-23's activities were revealed.

As Gen. Douglas MacArthur would later discover, Truman had no qualms about squashing military leaders that questioned his authority. His new secretary of the Navy, Francis Matthews, torpedoed the career of several admirals that spoke against the CVA-58's termination despite an earlier promise that those testifying before Congress would be spared retaliation.

The irony of this tempest in a teacup, which resulted in the political martyrdom of many senior Navy leaders, was how misguided both sides swiftly proved to be.

In June 1950 the Korean War broke out, and the U.S. found itself desperately short of the necessary conventional land, air and sea forces. U.S. aircraft carriers and their onboard jet fighters soon bore the brunt of the initial fighting, and continued to play a major role until the end of the conflict.

And the Air Force's vaunted B-36s? They never dropped a single bomb in anger fortunately, as they were only intended for use in apocalyptic nuclear conflicts.

It turned out that plenty of wars were liable to be fought without resorting to weapons of mass destruction.

However, the Navy also had cause to count itself fortunate that the CVA-58 had been canceled. That's because in just a few years the size of tactical

nuclear weapons rapidly decreased, while high-thrust jet engines enabled hauling of heavier and heavier loads.

By 1950, nuclear-capable AJ-1 Savage hybrid jet/turboprop bombers were operational on Midway-class carriers, starting with the USS Franklin Roosevelt.

These were soon followed by nuclear-capable capable A-3 Sky Warrior and A-5 Vigilante bombers, A-6 and A-7 attack planes, and even multirole fighters like the F-4 Phantom II. Carriers with these aircraft were far more flexible than a CVA-58 full of B-36 wannabees ever could have been.

Arguably, by the 1960s the Navy's ballistic missile submarines would amount to scarier strategic nuclear weapons than any aircraft-based delivery system.

The schematics for CVA-58 nonetheless informed the Navy's first supercarriers, named rather appropriately the Forrestal-class, laid down during the Korean War.

But the heavy-bomber carrying United States remains notable as the supercarrier the Navy absolutely thought it needed—but which with literally just a couple years more hindsight it discovered it truly could do without.

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An article by Joe Stenson titled "Fighting Talk: Ireland Raises Stakes in Brexit Showdown" was posted at afp.com on July 28, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

With the prospect of a no-deal Brexit becoming ever more likely under Boris Johnson, the remaining EU member state with most to lose—Ireland—is hardening its rhetoric.

Ireland has a land border with Britain that it wants to keep free-flowing after Brexit and it fears massive economic disruption if Britain crashes out of the EU.

Since Johnson took over on Wednesday [July 24], Irish leaders have warned his plans are unrealistic and could lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom and a united Ireland.

"The Irish government are responding to facts on the ground' as they emerge, and the fact is that Boris Johnson's current approach is leading to no deal," said Jonathan Evershed, a politics researcher of University College Cork.

"I think everything the Irish government has said is (a) true and (b) an attempt to confront Johnson's government—which has willfully lost its grip on reality."

Duncan Morrow, a politics professor at Ulster University said: "Standing up to a 'bullying' approach by Britain is part of the DNA of Irish politics, so no Taoiseach [Irish prime minister] can be seen to fold simply because a UK premier raises his voice." Varadkar was first to react to Johnson's victory speech on Wednesday [July 24], saying his stated goal of renegotiating the Brexit deal entirely by a deadline of October 31 was "totally not in the real world."

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney on Friday [July 26] then warned that Johnson was putting Britain "on a collision course with the European Union."

Varadkar also on Friday [July 26] said Johnson was making the prospect of a unification of British Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland more likely.

"The Irish government appears to have concluded that the new government in London is not interested in finding a deal and is making it clear that they will not be conceding either," Morrow told AFP.

"This remains a protracted game of chicken."

Lost its grip on reality

Ireland has found itself at the center of the knot in Britain's tangled bid to leave the European Union.

The withdrawal deal agreed under Johnson's predecessor Theresa May failed to pass through British parliament because of the inclusion of the so-called Irish backstop.

MPs believe the clause, designed to preserve the EU single market and prevent a hard border in Ireland, would endanger the union of Northern Ireland with Britain.

But on Friday [July 26] Varadkar issued a warning that a no-deal may itself endanger the union, as citizens in the province look south in hope of remaining in the EU.

Following its interventions, the Irish government was accused by the Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of engaging in "megaphone diplomacy."

"Language is being used which is unhelpful or unnecessarily aggressive," said MP Ian Paisley—singling out Coveney's remarks as "downright provocative and disrespectful."

The pro-Brexit, anti-backstop DUP has an oversized voice in Westminster because its 10 MPs give the government its working majority in parliament.

Experts warned the DUP's influence, rather than any Irish government plans, could undo the union between Northern Ireland and Britain.

"There is a risk that the DUP will accelerate that which they most wish to prevent," Morrow said.

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"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 Edwin Mora titled "India Investigating Female Feticide in 132 Villages Without Girl Births" was posted at breitbart.com on July 26, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled "China's Iran Oil Imports Plunge As U.S. Sanctions Bite" was posted at reuters.com on July 27, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Dan Williams titled "Israel Says Arrow-3 Missile Shield Passes U.S. Trials, Warns Iran" was posted at reuters.com on July 28, 2019.

■ An article titled "Iran Frees Nine Indian Crew From Seized Tanker: India Govt." was posted at afp.com on July 26, 2019.

■ An article by Raf Sanchez titled "Europeans Stall on Mission to Protect Tankers in Gulf After [Dominic] Raab Calls for Joint Patrols With U.S." was posted at telegraph.co.uk on July 27, 2019.

■ An article by Frank Zeller titled "US Urges Germany to 'Help Secure' Strait of Hormuz" was posted at afp.com on July 30, 2019.

■ An article by Amir Havasi titled "Iran Says European Fleet in Gulf Would Be 'Provocative' " was posted at afp.com on July 28, 2019.

■ An article by Robert Beckhusen titled "How An F-22 Stealth Fighter Snuck Behind An Iranian F-4 Phantom" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 27, 2019.

■ An article by Kyle Mizokami titled "Trump Might Launch an Amphibious Assault Against Iran If a War Starts" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 25, 2019.

■ An article by Sebastien Roblin titled "Venezuela Borrowed \$10 Billion From Russia to Pay for Jet Fighters and Tanks; It Can't Pay It Back" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 27, 2019.

■ An article by Ben Kew titled "Venezuela: Socialist 'Death Squads' Targeting Opposition Activists" was posted at breitbart.com on Aug. 1, 2019.

■ An article by Allison Jackson titled "At Least 57 Dead in Brazil Prison Riot" was posted at afp.com on July 29, 2019.

■ An article titled "U.S. Approves Sales to Support Pakistan's F-16s [\$125 Million Worth], India's C-17s [\$670 Million Worth]" was posted at afp.com on July 26, 2019.

■ An article by Sebastien Roblin titled "Bad News: China Is Building Three Huge Helicopter 'Aircraft Carriers' " was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 27, 2019.

■ An article titled "Beijing-Friendly Candidate [Han Kuo-yu] Says Elections a 'Battle' for Taiwan" was posted at afp.com on July 28, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Hugh Bronstein titled "China to Inspect Argentine Crushers, Could Unlock No. 1 Soymeal Market" was posted at reuters.com on July 30, 2019.

■ An article titled "U.S., China End Trade Talks, No Word on Progress" was posted at apnews.com on July 31, 2019.

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An article by Brent Bozell and Tim Graham titled "The Cultural Left Goes Berserk" was posted at townhall.com on July 26, 2019. Following is the article.

You follow the antics of AOC and the so-called "Squad" of hers and you wonder if the left has lost its mind. Your instincts are correct. And if it's any comfort to the left, it is not alone. In fact, there are even loonier elements loose among the elites.

On the East Coast, the Manhattan-based leftist Jesuit magazine America regularly produces copy that assaults the teachings of the Catholic Church. (Some Jesuits are born with that DNA.)

But the magazine has outdone itself now, even by its standards. It has published an article titled "The Catholic Case for Communism" by its Torontobased correspondent Dean Dettloff, who just happens to be a member of the Communist Party of Canada.

Dettloff concedes, "Christianity and communism have obviously had a complicated relationship. That adjective 'complicated' will surely cause some readers to roll their eyes."

Well, he's right. It did. Communists have murdered millions of Catholics all over the world. Millions more in China, Cuba and elsewhere continue to be persecuted. "Complicated"? Programming a remote control can be complicated. There's a better word for this communist-Catholic dynamic. It's called "genocide."

This communist argued, "though some communists would undoubtedly prefer a world without Christianity, communism is not simply a program for destroying the church." Except that is precisely what communism has tried to do all over the world since its founding, and for good reason. Catholicism is its mortal enemy.

Rod Dreher wrote a devastating piece for The American Conservative titled "Jesuits Rehabilitate Communism." He wrote how in Warsaw recently, he knelt at the grave of the Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko, the chaplain of the Solidarity labor union movement, who the communist security forces beat to a lifeless pulp in 1984.

In communist countries, faithful priests and believers weren't just killed; they were tortured and forced to watch their beloved Christ and his cross be mocked in lurid and disgusting ways.

It wasn't "complicated." It was obscene.

So, do you think it can get any more intellectually incoherent than that?

Let's just mosey over to the West Coast now and see what we find there. Hollywood is about as left-wing as you can get, but you can never be leftwing enough if you're on the left, and here Hollywood goes again.

Hollywood is facing intense pressure from the left to be more "progressive." Now the left is targeting movies for children. What's the problem there, you ask? Just read Esquire magazine and you'll learn that Disney movies like "The Lion King" are unacceptably uber-capitalist. Gabrielle Bruney acknowledges in her piece that this is a movie about animals, not humans. But that doesn't matter.

"The politics of a cartoon savannah shouldn't be taken too seriously, of course," she writes. And then she becomes instantly serious: "but regressive class messaging abounds in children's films. A 2016 study of G-rated block-busters found that nearly a third of all the main characters in the films were upper class, while another quarter were upper middle class. Just 20 percent of leads were working class or poor."

You see, the lions are the rich, and this means their prey is somehow the poor. Bruney complains that the hyenas in the film are the villains, even though the lions also prey on animals.

She writes: "The problem with the hyenas, then, appears not to be that they eat meat, but that they're trying to eat above their station. In the class structure of Pride Rock, Disney pretty much made villains of the hungry poor, outcast animals who just wanted to literally eat the rich."

Similarly, the *Washington Post* published a column by Dutch professor Dan Hassler-Forrest in which he denounced "The Lion King" as a "fascistic" film that portrays "a society where the weak have learned to worship at the feet of the strong."

He adds, "The hyenas transparently represent the black, brown and disabled bodies that are forcefully excluded from this hierarchical society."

Holy smokes. Can you follow this nonsense? Then again, did we just say "holy" (slyly inserting religion) and "smokes" (we must support the tobacco lobby)?

Maybe, just maybe, there's some hope here. Maybe the intolerant left will find fault with everything and one day, like a black hole, implode upon itself.

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An article by Ann Coulter titled "How We Became the World's Suckers on Immigration" was posted at thehill.com on July 29, 2019. Following is the article.

Looking at our immigration policies compared to the rest of the world, you'd think America lost a bet.

The United States is one of only two developed countries in the world (the other is Canada, and even it has some restrictions we don't have) with full "birthright citizenship," meaning that any child born when his mother was physically present within the geographical borders of the U.S. automatically gets a U.S. birth certificate and a Social Security card.

That means legal immigrants, pregnant women sneaking in on tourist visas, travelers on a three-week vacation, cheap foreign workers on "temporary" visas and, in some cases, foreign diplomats.

There are laws on the books that say the kids born to diplomats don't automatically become citizens simply by being born here but—like so many of our immigration laws—these are treated as mere suggestions.

And that's not all.

We're the only country but two that confers automatic citizenship on children born to illegal aliens, or "anchor babies." This is not "birthright citizenship," which refers to children born to legal immigrants. (There's nothing vulgar, bigoted, racial or sexual about the term "anchor baby." It's a boating metaphor: A geographical U.S. birth "anchors" the child's entire family in this country by virtue of the baby's citizenship.)

The other two countries that grant citizenship to anchor babies are Canada and Tanzania. Canada doesn't have Latin America on its border, of course— and Tanzania is reconsidering the policy.

Here's a fun fact: Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman—the notorious Mexican drug lord, sentenced on July 17 to life plus 30 years for drug trafficking and multiple murder conspiracies—has two children who are American, born in sunny California to his wife, who's an anchor baby herself.

Why would any country make the calculated decision to reward illegal immigration by granting the full privileges of citizenship to the children of illegals or foreign visitors who arrange to have the births take place on its soil?

As a matter of fact, "we" didn't make such a decision.

The late Supreme Court Justice William Brennan invented the anchor-baby policy out of whole cloth and snuck it into a footnote of an opinion written in 1982. Yes, this ancient bedrock principle, this essence of "Who We Are," dates all the way back to the Reagan administration.

The Brennan footnote was not part of the decision. It does not have the force of law. Yet, today, we act as if Brennan's absurd dicta is the law of the land for no reason other than: a) sheer ignorance and b) a fear of being called "racist."

No U.S. Congress or Supreme Court ever debated and then approved the idea that children born to mothers illegally present in the country should automatically become citizens. Consequently, any president or Congress could simply state that children born to illegal aliens are not citizens. If only we had a president or Congress that would do so.

Which reminds me: No other country fawns over illegal immigrants brought in as minors, day in and day out, calling them "Dreamers."

The U.S. is one of the rare countries that makes citizens of people who can't speak the language—along with the masochistic Swedes. (How did they terrorize the world 800 years ago?)

The United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, Norway and the Netherlands all have the crazy idea that citizens should be able to communicate with one another. We have a language requirement on the books but, it turns out, that too is merely a suggestion.

No other country holds a "lottery" in which the prize is U.S. citizenship. Ireland has a lottery but, for whatever sick and twisted reason, the Irish give the winners money, not citizenship in their country.

We bring in 50,000 lucky lottery winners each year, literally for no reason at all. (Thanks, First President Bush!) To enter, you must be from a specified country, like the Congo, Nepal, Ethiopia or Uzbekistan. You submit your name to the State Department and, if your name is pulled out of a hat, WELCOME TO AMERICA!

This rigorous system for choosing our fellow citizens gave us, for example, Egyptian national Hesham Mohamed Ali Hedayet, who opened fire at the El Al Airlines ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport in 2002, murdering two people. His wife had won the lottery five years after he came here on a tourist visa.

It got us Sayfullo Saipov, the Uzbeki who plowed a rented truck into a crowd of bicyclists and pedestrians on Halloween 2017 in New York City, killing eight and injuring many more.

It bestowed upon us Akayed Ullah, the Bangladeshi national who got in as the nephew of a lottery winner. Ullah enriched us by detonating a bomb in New York City's Port Authority in December 2017.

Speaking of nephews of Bangladeshi lottery winners trying to blow up the Port Authority, no other major country in the world issues a majority of its visas to people based on the fact that they have a relative already living here.

We're not talking about the spouses and minor children of immigrants we really want. These are adult siblings, nephews and nieces—who have their own adult children, elderly parents and mothers-in-law. Two-thirds of all legal immigrants to the U.S. come in on these "family reunification" visas. (We wouldn't want our immigrants to be illiterate, poor and lonesome.)

Even the *New York Times*—despite its decidedly anti-MAGA bent—has described our "family reunification" system as wildly out of step with the rest of the world.

We're in a buyer's market but, instead of taking the top draft picks, we aggressively recruit the desperately poor, the culturally deprived, the sick and the needy. All because American elites seem to believe that it's unfair—even snooty—to try to bring in the best immigrants we can.

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An article by Walter Williams titled "Things Haven't Always Been This Way" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 17, 2019. Following is the article.

Here's a suggestion. How about setting up some high school rifle clubs?

Students would bring their own rifles to school, store them with the team coach and, after classes, collect them for practice. You say: "Williams, you must be crazy! To prevent gun violence, we must do all we can to keep guns out of the hands of kids."

There's a problem with this reasoning. Prior to the 1960s, many public high schools had shooting clubs. In New York City, shooting clubs were started at Boys, Curtis, Commercial, Manual Training and Stuyvesant high schools.

Students carried their rifles to school on the subway and turned them over to their homeroom or gym teacher. Rifles were retrieved after school for target practice. In some rural areas across the nation, there was a long tradition of high school students hunting before classes and storing their rifles in the trunks of their cars, parked on school grounds, during the school day.

Today, any school principal permitting rifles clubs or allowing rifles on school grounds would be fired, possibly imprisoned.

Here's my question: Have .30-30 caliber Winchesters and .22 caliber rifles changed to become more violent?

If indeed rifles have become more violent, what can be done to pacify them?

Will rifle psychiatric counseling help to stop these weapons from committing gun violence?

You say: "Williams, that's lunacy! Guns are inanimate objects and as such cannot act." You're right. Only people can act. That means that we ought to abandon the phrase "gun violence" because guns cannot act and hence cannot be violent.

If guns haven't changed, it must be that people, and what's considered acceptable behavior, have changed.

Violence with guns is just a tiny example. What explains a lot of what we see today is growing cultural deviancy. Twenty-nine percent of white children, 53% of Hispanic children and 73% of black children are born to unmarried women.

The absence of a husband and father in the home is a strong contributing factor to poverty, school failure, crime, drug abuse, emotional disturbance and a host of other social problems. By the way, the low marriage rate among blacks is relatively new. Census data shows that a slightly higher percentage of black adults had married than white adults from 1890 to 1940. According to the 1938 Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences, that year only 11% of black children and 3% of white children were born to unwed mothers.

In 1954, I graduated from Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin High School, the city's poorest school. During those days, there were no school policemen. Today, close to 400 police patrol Philadelphia schools. According to federal education data, in the 2015-16 school year, 5.8% of the nation's 3.8 million teachers were physically attacked by a student. Almost 10% were threatened with injury.

Other forms of cultural deviancy are found in the music accepted today that advocates murder, rape and other vile acts. In previous generations, people

were held responsible for their behavior. Today, society at large pays for irresponsible behavior.

Years ago, there was little tolerance for the crude behavior and language that are accepted today. To see men sitting while a woman was standing on a public conveyance was once unthinkable. Children addressing adults by their first name, and their use of foul language in the presence of, and often to, teachers and other adults was unacceptable.

A society's first line of defense is not the law or the criminal justice system but customs, traditions and moral values. These behavioral norms, mostly imparted by example, word-of-mouth and religious teachings, represent a body of wisdom distilled over the ages through experience and trial and error.

Police and laws can never replace these restraints on personal conduct. At best, the police and criminal justice system are the last desperate line of defense for a civilized society. Today's true tragedy is that most people think what we see today has always been so.

As such, today's Americans accept behavior that our parents and grandparents never would have accepted.

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An article by Walter Williams titled "What's Most Important?" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 24, 2019. Following is the article.

Let's think about priorities. Say that you live in one of the dangerous high crime and poor schooling neighborhoods of cities like Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit or St. Louis.

Which is most important to you: doing something about public safety and raising the quality of education or, as most black politicians do, focusing energies upon President Donald Trump and who among the 20 presidential contenders will lead the Democratic Party?

The average American has no inkling about the horrible conditions in which many blacks live. Moreover, they wouldn't begin to tolerate living under those conditions themselves.

In Chicago, one person is shot every four hours and murdered every 18 hours. Similar crime statistics can be found in many predominantly black neighborhoods in Baltimore, Detroit, St. Louis and many other large cities. It's not just an issue of public safety, for high crime has other devastating consequences.

Crime lowers the value of property. We can see some of this when housing prices skyrocket in formerly high crime areas when large numbers of middle- and upper-income people purchase formerly run-down properties and fix them up.

This is called gentrification—wealthier, predominantly white, people move in to renovate and restore slum housing in inner cities, causing higher rental prices and forcing low-income residents out. Also, as a result of gentrification, crime falls and neighborhood amenities increase.

The high crime rates in many black neighborhoods have the full effect of outlawing economic growth and opportunities.

Here's a tiny example of the impact of crime on businesses. In low crime communities, supermarket managers may leave plants, fertilizer and other home and garden items outdoors, unattended and often overnight.

If one even finds a supermarket in a high crime neighborhood, then that store must hire guards, and the manager cannot place items outside unguarded or near exits. They cannot use all the space that they lease, and hence they are less profitable.

Who bears the ultimate cost of crime? If you said black people, you're right. Black people must bear the expense to go to suburban shopping malls if they are to avoid the higher prices charged by mom and pop shops.

In low crime neighborhoods, FedEx, UPS and other delivery companies routinely leave packages that contain valuable merchandise on a doorstep if no one is at home. That saves the expense of redelivery and saves recipients the expense of having to go pick up the packages.

In high crime neighborhoods, delivery companies leaving packages at the door and supermarkets leaving goods outside unattended would be equivalent to economic suicide.

Today's level of lawlessness and insecurity in many black communities is a relatively new phenomenon. In the 1950s, '40s, '30s and earlier times, people didn't bar their windows. Doors were often left unlocked. People didn't go to bed to the sounds of gunshots. And black people didn't experience any-thing like what's experienced in Chicago and other cities such as one person being shot every four hours and murdered every 18 hours.

The uninformed blame today's chaos on discrimination and poverty. That doesn't even pass the smell test, unless one wants to argue that historically there was less racial discrimination and poverty than today.

Politicians who call for law and order are often viewed negatively, but poor people are more dependent on law and order than anyone else. In the face of high crime or social disorder, wealthier people can afford to purchase alarm systems, buy guard dogs, hire guards and, if things get completely out of hand, move to a gated community. These options are not available to poor people.

The only protection poor people have is an orderly society.

Ultimately, the solution to high crime rests with black people. Given the current political environment, it doesn't benefit a black or white politician to take those steps necessary to crack down on lawlessness in black communities. That means black people must become intolerant of criminals making their lives living hell, even if it requires taking the law into their own hands.

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An article by Walter Williams titled "Being a Racist Is Easy Today" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 31, 2019. Following is the article.

Years ago, it was hard to be a racist. You had to be fitted for and spend money on a white gown and don a pointy hat. You celebrated racism by getting some burlap, wrapping it around a cross, setting it ablaze and dancing around it carrying torches. Sometimes, as did Lester Maddox, you had to buy axe handles for yourself and your supporters to wield to forcibly turn away black customers from your restaurant. Or, as in the case of Theophilus "Bull" Connor, you had to learn to direct fire hoses and vicious police attack dogs against civil rights demonstrators.

Younger racists, along with their parents, had to memorize poems for whenever a black student showed up for admission to their high school or college. For example, "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want to integrate!" Of course, there were a host of racial slurs and epithets that could be hurled, with impunity, at any black person in your presence. In earlier times, you didn't have to be sophisticated, but it took a bit of work, to be a racist.

Today, all that has changed. To be a racist today takes little effort.

For example, one can sit back in his easy chair and declare that he's for across-the-board tax cuts. That makes you a racist.

If you don't believe me, think back to 1994 when the Republican-led Congress pushed for a tax-cut measure. Former U.S. House of Representatives member Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., denouncing the Republicans' plan before a Manhattan audience as a form of modern-day racism said: "It's not 'spic' or 'n—-' anymore. (Instead,) they say, 'Let's cut taxes.'" A few months later, he compared the GOP's "Contract with America" to measures in Nazi Germany saying, "Hitler wasn't even talking about doing these things."

One can be labeled a racist through a set of "microaggressions" listed in "Diversity in the Classroom, UCLA Diversity & Faculty Development" from 2014.

Here are a few statements one should avoid.

- "You are a credit to your race."
- "Wow! How did you become so good in math?"
- "There is only one race, the human race."
- "I'm not racist. I have several Black friends."
- "As a woman, I know what you go through as a racial minority."

But most instances of microaggressions are less overt. There are college microaggressions such as a male student rolling his eyes when a female student speaks, or people not wanting to be in study groups with those of different races.

■ Perhaps the easiest way to be labeled a racist is to suggest that a wall be built on our border with Mexico in order to keep people from Mexico and points south from entering our nation illegally.

■ Also, a slam-dunk charge of racism is to say that the standard practice of separating children from parents is Nazi-like.

But imagine you are stopped with your child in the car and charged with a DUI in any of our 50 states. You're going to be arrested and your child taken to protective child services. The identical practice on our southern border becomes racism.

As veteran journalist Brit Hume said about the uproar over President Donald Trump's latest bomb-throwing: "Trump's 'go back' comments were nativist, xenophobic, counterfactual and politically stupid. But they simply do not meet the standard definition of racist, a word so recklessly flung around these days that its actual meaning is being lost."

The president cleaned up his remarks a few days later saying: "These are people that hate our country. If you're not happy in the U.S., if you're complaining all the time, very simply, you can leave."

By the way, leaving isn't Trump's idea. Many leftists pledged to flee America altogether if Trump were elected president.

The bottom line is that when leftists have no other winning argument, they falsely accuse others of racism.

- Republicans cower at the charge and often give the leftists what they want.
- Black Americans who are octogenarians, or nearly so, need to explain what true racism is, not to correct white liberals but to inform young black people.

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An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Miracle of America" was posted at patriotpost.us on July 27, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Even the most ardent atheist must question his beliefs when he considers the birth of this great nation. When he looks around today and considers the riffraff who hold public office in a nation of 330 million, how can he not see how extraordinary it was that in 1776, when there were only about 2.5 million Americans in the 13 original states, this nation was blessed to have the likes of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John and Samuel Adams, Nathan Hale, Paul Revere, John Hancock, Patrick Henry, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, serving as midwives at its birth?

These were men leading a revolution against the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. When they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, to the cause of liberty, it wasn't virtue-signaling as we've come to know it. It was virtue, plain and simple. Their word was their bond, and their bond could easily put a noose around their collective necks if General George Washington wasn't able to defeat the British forces.

But the fact that Washington was not only able to lead an army of farmers and shopkeepers to victory over the army that would, not too many years later, stop Napoleon in his tracks, but would never even be wounded in battle, points to the intervention of a just and merciful Creator.

These days, when generals tend to be far from the field of battle, it's no surprise that they retire without a scratch, unless they happen to cut themselves shaving. But Washington rode at the front of his troops. Moreover, he made a massive target, being 6-foot-2 and weighing about 200 pounds, which meant he was roughly seven inches taller and 40 or 50 pounds heavier than those under his command.

■ Aiming at General Washington

There were comments from both British marksmen and Indians who swore that they took dead aim on the General and somehow missed him. The Brits may have attributed it all to luck; the Indians apparently thought he was the Great Spirit or at least a man particularly favored by the Great Spirit. After a while, they wouldn't even consider targeting him.

You can attribute his survival to dumb luck or superstition, but when King George III got word that George Washington had been offered the American crown but refused it, he said, quite correctly, "He is the greatest man on earth."

Removing a mural

So, naturally, it figures that 243 years later, a high school in San Francisco would be so offended by a mural depicting the man's remarkable life, they will spend \$600,000 removing it from the wall of a high school auditorium.

Changing words

Meanwhile, in nearby but equally addled Berkeley, one of America's foremost maestros, Richard Kaufman let me know that the city's leaders are going the extra mile to remind the rest of us that there's something in the very air of the Bay area that has the power to turn the human brain to mush.

The nincompoops have decided to neuter the language by changing "manholes" into something called "maintenance holes," that "man-made" will henceforth be referred to as "human-made" and "manpower" will become "human effort" or "workforce."

In their concerted human effort not to leave any loose ends, linguistically speaking, they have even managed to turn fraternity and sorority houses into

"collegiate Greek system residences," a term that stumbles off the tongue as clumsily as a drunk making his way home at two in the morning.

The City Council has also banned such pronouns as "she," "her," "he" and "him" in favor of "they" and "them."

If you ask me, they and them are as crazy as bed bugs.

Ilhan Omar quick to call people racist

Even though the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* helped her get elected and even has her picture hanging in the newspaper's lobby, Ilhan Omar has denounced her hometown rag as racist.

It seems that she, even more than Maxine Waters, Kamala Harris and Michelle Obama, reflexively refers to anyone who disagrees with her even once as racist.

I have a feeling that if a reporter ever asked her what she thought of Congresswoman Omar, she would automatically label him a racist before she realized that she is Congresswoman Omar.

■ Good news, bad news

The good news is that in a recent poll, 69% of respondents said they opposed Socialism.

The bad news is that 50% of American voters are so stupid they will nevertheless cast their ballots for whichever Socialist gets the nomination.

Trump could not win a landslide

That is why when a subscriber let me know that he's certain President Trump will be re-elected in a landslide next year, I had to pop his balloon.

"I do believe he will win," I wrote, "but I can't see how it can possibly be a landslide. Between them, California, New York, Illinois, Maryland, Oregon, Washington, New Jersey, Hawaii, New Jersey, Vermont, Colorado, Connecticut and Massachusetts, have so many electoral votes, the deck is always stacked against the Republican. Even Hillary would have won in a cakewalk if just 100,000 votes of the 130 million cast had gone to her instead of Trump.

For some of us, the outcome of that election was as miraculous as America's victory over the Redcoats.

Mother-in-law

Dave Krueger passed along the following chuckle: "I live in fear that Trump will deport my Latino mother-in-law, who lives at 1837 N. Oak Street, in Bakersfield, CA. It's a white house with blue trim and she gets off work at 5 p.m."

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An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "A Political Futbol" was posted at patriotpost.us on July 29, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article. Sports was supposed to be the one place where people were supposed to be able to get away from political partisanship. But in these troubled times, escape is not possible.

The funny papers, as they used to be called, are another. But, thanks to comic strips like Garry Trudeau's Doonesbury, which pounds Trump so relentlessly, you might think you were watching CNN or MSNBC, and the gringo-hating Lalo Alcarez's La Cucaracha, which comes across like a badly-drawn version of a La Raza press release, the comics are as politically biased as a *Washington Post* editorial.

I don't care about football and it's difficult for me to even consider soccer a sport, but if I did, I'd be even angrier than I am about what Colin Kaepernick has done to the former and what Megan Rapinoe and her buddies have done to the latter.

Obvious double standard

The double-standard couldn't be clearer when it comes to the response these athletes have received. If a conservative athlete had insulted President Obama, do you think Nike or any other company would have given him an multimillion dollar endorsement deal?

If the players on a soccer team representing the United States had announced they wouldn't show up at the White House because the players hated Obama, do you think they would have received a tickertape parade in New York City? Can you even imagine companies lining up begging to turn them into instant millionaires?

If it hasn't happened already, you can bet that Megan Rapinoe, who is probably the second most iconic lesbian in America today, second only to Ellen DeGeneres, will soon be popping on boxes of Wheaties.

I wonder and worry how many little girls are already praying to grow up to be just like Megan.

NRA playing defense

Something I have never understood is why the NRA, in spite of having millions in the bank, always seems satisfied to play defense.

As soon as some liberal proposes legislation to ban certain guns, the NRA springs into action. Otherwise, they're satisfied to just keep raking in the money.

Yet in every issue of *The New American*, the editors devote an entire page to accounts of men and women, even teenagers, who have defended themselves and their families against home invaders, robbers and rapists, because they had guns and they knew how to use them.

The NRA should run a series of TV spots letting these people tell their stories. It would be a lot more effective than just delivering dry lectures about the importance of the 2nd Amendment. These are Americans, our friends and

neighbors, who were not robbed, raped or murdered, all thanks to their constitutional right to arm themselves.

Communist actor

After I promoted the upcoming screenings of "Angels on Tap," one of my readers sent me the following email: "Burt, you wanted the commie Ed Asner in your film??"

That second question mark let me know he was really astonished and more than a little miffed. And I can certainly understand why, considering Ed's political bent. I've known Ed for about 45 years. I've worked with him in the past when I wrote a couple of episodes of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and a TV movie titled "A Small Killing."

But I know him a lot better than he knows me. I know he is a Communist; he assumes, because I'm Jewish and have made my living in TV, that I am at least a liberal. I never saw a particularly good reason to set him straight. It's not as if I could have convinced him that I'm right and that he's a political nincompoop.

And so my response to the question was "I'm well aware of his politics, but he's a good actor and I don't believe in blacklisting, no matter who's doing it to whom."

Catchy one-liners

Bob Hunt passed along a warning that any parent would ignore at his own peril: "Children Left Unattended Will Be Given a Drum Kit and a Free Kitten."

Bob Hunt, who I'm beginning to think has given up his accounting career in order to send me material, has come through again, providing me with a cache of one-liners.

"I'm great a multi-tasking; I can waste time, be unproductive and procrastinate all at the same time."

"I hate it when people use big words just to make themselves sound perspicacious."

"Hospitality is the art of making guests feel like they're at home when you wish they were."

"I'll bet you \$4,578 you can't guess how much I owe my bookie."

"Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes."

"When I married Miss Right, I had no idea her first name was Always."

"Give me ambiguity or give me something else."

"Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?"

Helping illegal aliens

I find it disgusting that Nancy Pelosi, Gavin Newsom and Hillary Clinton, among other top-tier Democrats, are all doing their best to help illegal aliens, including those who have committed felonies in America, escape detection by ICE agents. Most of us, I dare say, were angry when the jurors at the O.J. trial chose to nullify the law rather than find a black celebrity guilty of a double murder he had obviously committed.

But at least those were just 12 schmucks who, as the saying goes, weren't smart enough to avoid jury duty.

But this is an entire political party that has decided to nullify federal law, including a slew of pinheads who actually aspire to be the leaders of the free world.

Is it any wonder I have trouble getting to sleep?

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"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 Kate Davidson titled "Federal Borrowing Soars As Deficit Fear Fades" was posted at wsj.com on July 29, 2019.

Finances

■ An article by Russell Rhine titled "Elizabeth Warren Wants to Transfer \$640 Billion in Student Loan Debt to Taxpayers" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 28, 2019.

■ An article by Edward Helmore titled "Lean Meat: US Pork Prices Rise As Sweltering Summer Leads to Skinny Pigs" was posted at theguardian.com on July 27, 2019.

■ An article titled "Trump Gives US Farmers New Round of Funds As Trade War Cushion" was posted at foxbusiness.com on July 26, 2019.

■ A Reuters article titled "Trump Says China Could Wait Until U.S. Election for Trade Deal" was posted at reuters.com on July 26, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Michael Martina and David Lawder titled "U.S., China Move Trade Talks to Shanghai Amid Deal Pessimism" was posted at reuters. com on July 28, 2019.

■ An article by Brett Molina titled "Trump Says No Tariff Waivers for Apple on Mac Pro Parts Made in China" was posted at usatoday.com on July 28, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Cate Cadeil and Hallie Gu titled "Beijing Says China Stepping Up U.S. Soy Imports, Yet to Show Up in U.S. Data" was posted at reuters.com on July 29, 2019.

Green New Deal

■ An article by Daniel Davis titled "Sorry, AOC: Socialism Is the Zombie Ideology of Our Time" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 26, 2019.

Illegal immigration

■ An article by David French titled "Another Judge [Jon Tigar of California] Blocks Trump, and the Immigration Stalemate Drags On" was posted at nationalreview.com on July 26, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Lawrence Hurley titled "U.S. Supreme Court Lets Trump Use Disputed Funds for Border Wall" was posted at reuters.com on July 26, 2019.

■ A Reuters article by Rebekah F. Ward titled "Mexico Says Migrant Numbers at U.S. Border Down 40% Since May" was posted at reuters.com on July 30, 2019.

Comments about weapons

■ An article by Hannah Fry titled "This California Town [Needles, Calif.] Wants to Be a 2nd Amendment 'Sanctuary City' for Guns and Ammo" was posted at latimes.com on August. 1, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

■ An article by Jason Owens titled "Mariano Rivera [Famous Pitcher Recently Inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame] Defends Support of Donald Trump: 'He's Doing the Best for the United States' " was posted at yahoo.com on July 24, 2019.

■ An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Record 157,288,000 Employed in July" was posted at cnsnews.com on August 2, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

■ An article by Mark Moore titled "Democrats Baffled As 2020 Candidates Go on the Attack—Against [Barack] Obama" was posted at nypost.com on August. 1, 2019.

■ An article by Cameron Cawthome titled "CNN Reporter [Rebecca Buck]: [Barack] Obama Exasperated Over Left-Wing 2020 Candidates" was posted at freebeacon.com on August 2, 2019.

■ An article by Rebecca Klar titled "Michael Moore Urges Michelle Obama to Run Against Trump" was posted at thehill.com on Aug. 1, 2019.

■ An article by Ariel Edwards-Levy titled "Is the Democratic Party Getting More Extreme? The Public Doesn't Think So [According to Huffpost Poll]" was posted at huffpost.com on July 30, 2019.

■ An article by Lee Moran titled "Rashida Tlaib Torches Donald Trump's 'Hate Agenda' in Searing Op-Ed [in *Washington Post*]" was posted at huffpost.com on July 30, 2019.

■ An article by Judge Andrew P. Napolitano titled "Trump Has Unleashed a Torrent of Hatred" was posted at foxnews.com on July 25, 2019.

■ An article by Sean Rossman titled "CNN Anchor Victor Blackwell Gives Emotional On-Air Defense of Hometown of Baltimore After Trump Attacks" was posted at usatoday.com on July 27, 2019.

■ An article by Kadia Tubman titled "Barack and Michelle Obama Offer Race Rebukes of Trump Over Attacks on Baltimore" was posted at yahoo.com on July 28, 2019.

■ An article by Sanjana DiNuzzo titled "House Republicans to Hold Retreat in Baltimore [on Sept. 12-14] Despite Trump's Tirade Against City" was posted at huffpost.com on July 29, 2019.

■ An article by Julia Marsh titled "DeBlasio Begs for \$1 Donations to Make September Debates" was posted at nypost.com on July 26, 2019.

■ An article by Carla Herreria titled "Texas Democrat [Former State Rep.] Wendy Davis Is Officially Running for Congress [the Seat of Republican Chip Roy]" was posted at huffpost.com on July 22, 2019.

Kamala Harris

■ A Reuters article by Sharon Bernstein titled "U.S. Presidential Hopeful Harris Would Spend \$60 Billion on Historically Black Colleges" was posted at reuters.com on July 26, 2019.

■ An article by Mary Anne Marsh titled "The 2020 Democratic Nomination Fight Is Now Down to Warren vs. Harris" was posted at foxnews.com on July 29, 2019.

■ An article by Christina Zhad titled "Tulsi Gabbard Praised for 'Pummeling' Kamala Harris' Record" was posted at newsweek.com on July 31, 2019.

■ An article by David Montanaro titled "Ben Shapiro Sums Up Dem Debates: The Kamala Harris 'Moment' Is Over; It's Now a Two-Person Race [Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren]" was posted at foxnews.com on August 2, 2019.

■ An article by Ben Shapiro titled "Kamala Harris Brought a Knife to a Gun Fight That She Started" was posted at dailywire.com on August 2, 2019.

Robert Francis (Beto) O'Rourke

■ An article by Errin Haines Whack titled "O'Rourke Debate Guests Are Black Men Who Kneeled for Anthem" was posted at apnews.com on July 30, 2019.

News about the media

■ An article by Shelby Talcott titled "MSNBC Host [Donny Deutsch] Says Democrats Aren't Going to 'Play Fair' to Put Trump in Jail" was posted at nationalinterest.org on July 26, 2019.

General interest

■ An article by Sophie Lewis titled "South Dakota Will Require 'In God We Trust' Signs in All Public Schools" was posted at cbsnews.com on July 26, 2019.

■ An article by Elizabeth Dwoskin and Tony Romm titled "Facebook Co-Founder [Chris Hughes] Campaigning to Break Up Tech 'Monopoly' He Helped Create" was posted at washingtonpost.com on July 25, 2019.

■ An article by Nicole Hong and Rebecca Davis O'Brien titled "Jeffrey Epstein's Pilots Are Subpoenaed in Sex-Trafficking Investigation" was posted at wsj.com on July 26, 2019.

■ An article by Kelly Bryant titled "This Is the Only Animal [Hippopotamus] That Terrified Steve Irwin [Famously Known As the Crocodile Hunter]" was posted at readersdigest.com on July 25, 2019.

■ An article by Emily DiNuzzo titled "This Restaurant [Marco's Pizza] Is Now America's Favorite Pizza Chain [According to a Poll From *Harris Insights & Analytics*] was posted at readersdigest.com on July 29, 2019.

■ An article by Mark Townsend titled "Orioles Outfielder [Stevie Wilkerson] Makes Pitching History in 16-Inning Win Against Angels [As the First Position Player to Record a 'Save' Since It Became an Official Stat 50 Years Ago]" was posted at yahoo.com on July 26, 2019.

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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."