



It's Media Integrity That's Missing in Action, not Melania



It is the integrity, professionalism and decency of the media of the day that is seriously MIA



By Judi McLeod, June 5, 2018, canadafreepress.com

No matter how outlandishly mainstream and social media try to spin their latest yarn, Melania Trump is not, and was never, Missing in Action (MIA). It is the integrity, professionalism and decency of the media of the day that is seriously MIA.

The sharks of mainstream and social media hungrily need Melania in plain sight, so that they can take vicious potshots at her even as she recuperates from her 3-week-old benign kidney embolization procedure.

They're all in a frenzied flap because their collective wolf-howling, "Come out, Melania, come out, come out wherever you are", isn't working because they are being effectively ignored by the White House and the First Lady herself.

With Melania —temporarily—out of the "NEWS", the media used Ivanka Trump as their stand-in, for slurs, making faux comedian Samantha Bee front page "NEWS" for calling Ivanka a "feckless c**t", and even worse suggesting that she should seduce her own father: "Put on something tight and low-cut and tell your father to f***ing stop it!"

Seriously MIA is mainstream and social media moral judgment.

"Despite widely circulated conspiracy theories and breathless media speculation that she was "missing in action," first lady Melania Trump attended a scheduled White House event honoring Gold Star families Monday evening. (Fox News, June 4, 2018)

"Videos of the first lady at the event, which marked her first public appearance in more than three weeks after undergoing a kidney procedure at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, were quickly posted on social media."

Notice how the White House was slagged for "quickly posting" the Melania videos?

"Images uploaded to Twitter showed the first lady wearing a sleeveless black dress and strolling into the East Room accompanied by President Trump. The president showed her to a seat in the front row before he headed for the stage. (Fox News)

"Melania Trump had not been seen in public since May 10, when she and the president welcomed home three Americans freed from North Korea. Four days later, the White House announced she had been hospitalized to treat a benign kidney condition.

"CNN and several other mainstream media outlets had been painting the first lady as "missing in action," even though several observers pointed out that the first lady was spotted in the West Wing as recently as May 29.

"Nevertheless, CNN's "Reliable Sources" newsletter on Monday led with a giant graphic of a calendar, placing question marks on each date since Mrs. Trump was "last seen" on May 10.

"Even though the network noted that Melania Trump was scheduled to appear at the Gold Star function Monday, CNN's Brian Stelter appeared to downplay the news because the event was not open to the public.

"BUT BUT: The event is closed to the press, so Monday evening may not resolve the mystery," Stelter tweeted.

"Meanwhile, Rolling Stone senior writer Jamil Smith on Sunday wrote on Twitter, "I wish that I didn't suspect that the prolonged, poorly explained public absence of Melania Trump could be about concealing abuse. I wish that it was a ludicrous prospect."

"A spokeswoman for Melania Trump on Monday slammed a "rabid press corps" for the wanton speculation about her condition and whereabouts.

"Mrs. Trump has always been a strong and independent woman who puts her family, and certainly her health above all else, and that won't change over a rabid press corps," Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for the first lady, told Fox News. "She's confident in what she is doing and in her role and knows the rest is just speculation and nonsense."

Even though the above information gem originated with Fox News' Brian Flood, "Alex Papas and the Associated Press contributed to this report".

(Melania, continued on page 2)

U.S. Government Seizes Life Savings from Ohio Family, Triggers Lawsuit Challenging Civil Forfeiture



Press Release by Rek LeCounte, Communications Project Manager, ij.org, May 31, 2018

CLEVELAND—An immigrant family working hard and sacrificing for thirteen years to help relatives and to buy a dream vacation home in their native country is something that should be celebrated. But for Rustem Kazazi, it led to a terrifying run-in with hostile agents of the U.S. government. And once again, an American family finds itself in a civil forfeiture battle with law enforcement over whether people have the right to travel with cash.

This version of an increasingly familiar nightmare began when Rustem, a 64-year-old former police officer from Albania who now lives in suburban Cleveland, was traveling back to Albania to fix up a family home and potentially buy a home on the coast. He and his wife, Lejla, have long dreamed of a vacation home for all their family to visit and enjoy once they retire. Rustem also has extended family in Albania who are struggling financially, and he wanted to help them.

At the airport in Cleveland, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) promptly whisked him into a small interrogation room, stripped him naked for a full-body search, interrogated him without a translator, and then seized his family's life savings without charging anyone with a crime. So now Rustem and his family are teaming up with the Institute for Justice (IJ) to fight back.

Rustem, Lejla, and the couple's son, Erald, and daughter immigrated to the United States in 2005 and became American citizens in 2010. They worked hard to save up \$58,100 for Rustem's trip. He packed the family's savings in three envelopes in his carry-on luggage and passed through security at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, heading to a layover at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, before ultimately flying to Albania. But CBP agents stopped him in Cleveland and took the family's entire life savings.

"You have the right to travel with cash in America, even when you're flying internationally," said Wesley Hottot, an attorney with IJ, which represents the Kazazis in the lawsuit. "But again, we're encountering a situation where law enforcement sees somebody with legal cash, assumes they must have done something criminal, and they just take the money. It is disturbing how little respect federal agents show for the civil rights of American citizens."

Because the Kazazis did nothing wrong, the government had to make something up. That is why, more than a month after the seizure, CBP tried to justify its actions by sending the Kazazis an outrageous letter claiming their money was "involved in a smuggling/drug trafficking/money laundering operation." None of this is true—the Kazazis saved up their money from jobs they held lawfully in America, and they have 13 years of tax documents and bank statements to prove it. Moreover, the government has never pointed to any evidence of wrongdoing. Rustem decided to carry the money in cash because American

(Cleveland Forfeiture, continued on page 2)

(Melania, continued from page 1)

Such is the sad state of media reportage of the day.

Let’s take a look at the mainstream media’s publicity hounds recently gone MIA:

Although her ambulance chasing lawyer was in Drudge headlines as recently as June 1: ‘Stormy Daniels Lawyer Dogged by His Own Legal Battles’, the last time we heard about Stormy was on May 23: ‘West Hollywood to present Stormy Daniels with Key to the City’-Drudge Report.

Back on May 18, we were reading about how Stormy Daniel’s show ended after a drunk man threw a wallet in her face.

Comically enough, Stormy’s bump and grind headlines have been replaced with former President Bill Clinton returning from MIA to sudden victimhood:

“Bill Clinton insists he doesn’t owe Monica Lewinsky an apology for hijacking her life by seducing her while president – and says HE’S a victim because the legal fallout left him \$16 million in debt.” (Daily Mail, June 4, 2018)

Will Clinton next demand a public #MeToo apology from Lewinsky for letting him seduce her?

Meanwhile, millions in the masses who know perfectly well where Melania Trump is, and are happy knowing she’s there, won’t be sending search and rescue parties out to find Stormy, her lawyer or the latest ‘victim’ married to Russia victim Hillary Clinton.

(Cleveland Forfeiture, continued from page 1)

dollars are highly valued in Albania and offer more purchasing power than the local currency.

Also troublingly, CBP’s letter claimed that agents seized \$57,330 from Rustem—\$770 less than he was actually carrying. So not only did federal agents take a family’s life savings without due process, but they did not even bother to count or report it properly, as required by law.

CBP never bothered to file a formal forfeiture complaint against the Kazazis’ life savings, and federal law required the agency to return the Kazazis’ money or initiate legal proceedings no later than April 17, 2018. But rather than honor its legal obligations, CBP continues to hold the Kazazis’ money more than seven months after the seizure without any explanation.

“The government harassed my father, stole my family’s money and is now apparently hoping we’ll just forget about it,” said Erald Kazazi. “We’re American citizens, and we came to this country because we believe America is the land of freedom and opportunity. We never imagined the government would treat its own citizens this way.”

The Kazazis’ case marks the third active IJ legal challenge against CBP. Earlier this month, IJ attorneys filed a class action lawsuit in Texas against the agency on behalf of a Houston-area nurse, Anthonia Nwaorie, who was traveling to Nigeria to build a medical clinic for vulnerable women and children. After CBP missed its filing deadline in that case, the agency initially demanded Anthonia sign away her civil rights in order to get her money back. CBP suddenly reversed course and returned Anthonia’s money without requiring her to sign away her rights after IJ’s lawsuit garnered an avalanche of negative publicity, but the lawsuit remains ongoing.

Last fall, IJ filed a different federal class action lawsuit in Texas against CBP’s use of civil forfeiture after the agency seized a truck from Kentucky farmer Gerardo Serrano and held it for two years without charging him with a crime. The agency returned Gerardo’s truck after IJ filed the lawsuit, but that case also remains ongoing. The plaintiffs in all three cases are trying to ensure nobody else falls victim to the nightmares they have experienced with civil forfeiture.

“This family’s case, like so many others, shows why civil forfeiture must end,” explained IJ attorney Johanna Talcott. “The Kazazis did nothing wrong and were never charged with a crime, but the government still won’t return their money all these months later. This kind of abuse is far too common because civil forfeiture is an inherently abusive process that will always have disastrous effects on innocent people. Enough is enough.”

Supreme Court Gives Huge Victory to Baker Who Wouldn’t Make Same-sex “Wedding” Cake



Photo: AP Images

Written by Selwyn Duke, June 4, 2018, thenewamerican.com

They can have their cake and eat it, too — just not if it’s decorated for a so-called “same-sex wedding.” That’s the upshot of a 7-2 Supreme Court ruling today in favor of Jack Phillips (shown), a Colorado baker persecuted by his state after refusing to craft such a cake for a pair of homosexuals.

Liberal justices Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer and “swing vote” justice Anthony Kennedy joined the court’s four conservatives in siding with Phillips in the case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. The SCOTUS found that the commission showed a hostility toward faith and violated Phillips’ “First Amendment rights to free exercise of religion since the regulations were not applied neutrally,” as *Christianity Today* relates it.

That’s putting it mildly. After all, around the time of Phillips’ woes, Colorado officials had actually “protected several bakers who were charged with anti-religious discrimination when they refused to design a cake with a quote from Leviticus condemning homosexuality,” reported the Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs in 2017.

Phillips’ problems stemmed from a complaint (perhaps a setup) by two homosexuals named David Mullins and Charlie Craig after the baker refused their request for a faux (same-sex) wedding cake in 2012, thus becoming one of a number of Christian businessmen targeted by the sexual-devolutionary lobby.

Interestingly, Reuters called the ruling a “narrow victory” for the baker because the “court did not issue a definitive ruling on the circumstances under which people can seek exemptions from anti-discrimination laws based on their religious views,” the news organization wrote. As it explained, ““The outcome of cases like this in other circumstances must await further elaboration in the courts, all in the context of recognizing that these disputes must be resolved with tolerance, without undue disrespect to sincere religious beliefs, and without subjecting gay persons to indignities when they seek goods and services in an open market,’ [Justice] Kennedy said.”

This is deceptive, however. While the victory for religious freedom might have been narrow, Phillips’ victory was anything but.

Nonetheless, the ruling was the narrowest of victories for common sense because the SCOTUS — and most everyone else — are missing the elephant in the room.

This obvious truth was expressed by Yale Law School professor William Eskridge, Jr., a self-described “openly gay” constitutional-law expert. Commenting on the Phillips case last year, he told the *New Yorker* that many Christian businessmen “have no problem with gay customers. They just don’t want to participate in the choreography of gay weddings.”

Phillips certainly fits this mold, as he told Mullins and Craig “that he would happily provide baked goods for them for other occasions, but he would not create a cake for this [faux wedding] event,” the *New Yorker* further informed.

“Event” is the key word. Many critics of Phillips and the SCOTUS decision complain about the baker’s refusal to “serve homosexuals.” Yet Christian businessmen don’t erect a sign stating, “No shoes, no shirt, no heterosexuality, no service” — there’s no straightness test at the door. They have not denied service to a certain type of people.

They have refused to service a certain type of event.

Thus, the proper analogy is not that Phillips’ actions are, as some aver, akin to liberals refusing to serve Christians or Trump supporters. Rather, they’re akin to blacks or Jews refusing to service, respectively, a KKK or Nazi affair.

In fact, the real question is: When before in American history has the government ever compelled a private businessman to be party to an event he found morally objectionable? When? Is this a bridge we really want to cross? Even if one were going to cite here the 14th Amendment (which would be an incorrect application), note that it guarantees equal treatment under the law only for people — *not events*.

So while the Colorado Civil Rights Commission had claimed “Phillips violated the Colorado anti-discrimination law that bars businesses from refusing service based on race, sex, marital status or sexual orientation,” as Reuters relates it, this is untrue. State officials clearly didn’t even know how to apply their own laws properly — or didn’t care to, in deference to their agenda.

In reality, the truth is precisely the opposite of what the sexual devolutionaries claim: Phillips did not single out homosexuals or even faux weddings. As *Christianity Today* reported last year, he “also refuses to create bakery goods with alcohol, and won’t make cakes ‘celebrating Halloween and other messages his faith prohibits, such as racism, atheism, and any marriage not between one man and one woman.’” The government singled out homosexual events for privileges and Christians for persecution.

Of course, none of this addresses the other room-obtruding elephant: Why should government be empowered to trample freedom of association and dictate how businessmen may discriminate in the first place? Is a person’s business his business or — in accordance with Mussolini’s fascist principle “All within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state” — is “private” now just an illusion?



US Military Says Strikes Against ISIS Up 123% in May

By Joseph Lafave, Contributor, June 1, 2018, dailycaller.com

U.S. and coalition forces in Iraq and Syria have conducted 123 percent more strikes in May as compared to April. The increase in strikes is due primarily to Operation Roundup, the Syrian Defense Forces (SDF) new offensive to push the remnants of ISIS out of Syria.

“Daesh morale is sinking on the frontlines as privileged Daesh leaders increasingly abandon their own fighters on the battlefield, taking resources with them as they flee,” Central Command (CENTCOM) officials said Friday in a press release.

The strikes in Iraq and Syria are in direct support of SDF troops and against strategic ISIS targets throughout the Levant.

Among targets destroyed have been ISIS controlled buildings, vehicles, tactical units, command and control centers, and fighting positions. An ISIS logistics hub was also bombed this week.

“Over the coming weeks, Operation Roundup will continue to build momentum against Daesh remnants remaining in the Iraq-Syria border region and the MERV,” CENTCOM officials said. “The Coalition remains committed to the lasting defeat of Daesh here, increasing peace and stability in the region and protecting all our homelands from the Daesh threat.”

U.S. forces have also been working closely with Iraqi units to hunt down ISIS fighters in Iraq.

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Most Floridians Ready as Hurricane Season Begins



By Kevin Derby, June 1, 2018, sunshinestatenews.com

With major storms hitting the Sunshine State the last two years, a new report shows that more Floridians are prepared for the 2018 hurricane season which starts on Friday.

AAA released a survey on Thursday finding 81 percent of Floridians are already making preparations for hurricanes, up from 58 percent in 2016.

Most Floridians--78 percent--say they would leave their homes if ordered to evacuate though 22 percent say they would stay put. Most Florida residents who say they would evacuate--62 percent of them--say they would leave their homes if there was a category three hurricane or greater. Two thirds of those surveyed--66 percent--say they have a plan already prepared in case a hurricane strikes.

Bobby Futch, the vice president of insurance claims for AAA and the Auto Club Group, said that Florida residents are better prepared this year for hurricanes after the events of the past two years.

“Major hurricanes like Harvey and Irma seem to be making residents more aware of the dangers of hurricane season and the need to make advanced preparations,” Futch said. “Storm preparations should include having a storm kit, evacuation plan, and proper insurance coverage, which includes flood insurance.”

AAA’s survey found that most Florida residents--70 percent of them--do not have flood insurance. However, even if Floridians buy flood insurance now, it might not take effect for the start of hurricane season.

“Nearly half of residents in Florida do not know there is normally a 30-day waiting period for a new flood policy to take effect,” said Matt Nasworthy, the Florida public affairs director for AAA and the Auto Club Group. “If you wait until a named storm is moving in your direction, you will be too late. Now is the time to check with your insurance agent to ensure you are covered before the busy storm season begins.”

Hurricane season begins on Friday and runs through the end of November. This year, the Colorado State University Meteorology Project team is predicting 14 named storms and seven hurricanes, three of which will be category three or higher.

AAA took an online poll of 400 Florida residents from April 4 through April 18 with a margin of error of +/- 5.6 percent

Jeff Greene Enters Democratic Primary in Gubernatorial Race



By Sunshine State News, June 4, 2018

Palm Beach billionaire Jeff Greene jumped into the governor’s race as he gears up for a second bid for statewide office.

Greene filed his paperwork with the state to run for governor.

The billionaire candidate has an interesting past including aspects of modern celebrity and a Horatio Alger tale. Growing up in a middle class environment, Greene held some odd jobs, waiting tables at the Breakers and working for a traveling circus before making his fortune, which is well over \$1 billion, in real estate. Greene added to his wealth by investing in credit default swaps, investing against sub-prime mortgages. Greene has also hobnobbed with celebrities including a tangled lawsuit against actor and director Ron Howard, having Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss living on his property for a year and having controversial heavyweight great Mike Tyson as the best man at his wedding in 2008.

While he grew up in Florida as a Democrat, Greene drifted over to the Republican ranks during his time in grad school, going for his MBA at the Harvard Business School. Greene ran in the Republican primary for a congressional seat in California back in 1982 but was unsuccessful in winning the nomination. Since that time, he has returned to the Democrats. In 2010, Greene pulled 31 percent in the Democratic primary in a race for an open U.S. Senate seat but lost to then U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meeks, D-Fla., who took 57 percent.

With Gov. Rick Scott facing term limits, Greene joins a crowded Democratic primary which also includes Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, Central Florida businessman Chris King and former Miami Beach Mayor Phil Levine. Former U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Fla., who lost to U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., in 2016, is a possible candidate.

Gillum weighed in on Greene getting in the race Monday morning and looked to contrast his background with the other candidates.

“I welcome Jeff Greene to this race to become Florida’s next governor,” Gillum said. “As the son of a construction worker and bus driver, and still the only non-millionaire Democrat in our primary, I believe Florida Democrats need a true champion for working people as their nominee. I look forward to continuing this contest of ideas with Jeff in the field.”



Parkland Parents Outraged at Infamous Retreating Deputy’s Interview

By Mike Brest, Contributor, June 6, 2018, dailycaller.com

Parents of Parkland, Fla., Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students were outraged after the deputy who hid outside during the February school shooting provided more excuses as to why he didn’t immediately confront the killer in an interview that aired yesterday.

“I’m never gonna get over this, you know,” said the officer, Scot Peterson, in a Wednesday interview with NBC. “Those were my kids, you know. I was there to protect those kids.

Fred Gutenberg, a father of one of the victims, responded to the interview in the *Miami Herald*, saying, “I’m tired of him trying to paint himself as the victim. He is not a victim. He created victims. He keeps referring to them as his kids. They are not your kids, Scot Peterson! You let them die!”

“Those people who lost their lives, including my daughter, are victims of his inability to do his job; victims of his failure,” Guttenberg added. “This interview makes him even more pathetic than he already was. You failed me and my daughter. If you are truly sorry, I challenge you to face me.”

Andrew Pollack, another father who lost their child in the massacre, said to the Herald, “Nobody should be

able to not do their job, receive a pension and ride off into the sunset. How could [Peterson] find [the shooter] if he’s hiding behind a wall?”

Pollack’s comment is about Peterson’s \$8,000 a month pension. He also filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Peterson and the shooter in April.

“He actually caused more deaths because he told officers not to go in. He should be prosecuted,” Alex Schachter, another parent who lost their child in the massacre, said.



NASA's Worldview - Two Decades of Earth Data at Your Fingertips

By APN Staff, June 6, 2018

NASA’s release of the Worldview data will provide users almost 20 years of satellite data and imagery. According to the NASA website this data was accumulated by the Goddard Space Flight Center and can be accessed at: <https://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/index.html>. The website relates the following message to users:

Two decades of planetary change are available to explore in NASA's Worldview. Detailed views of volcanoes fuming, hurricanes flooding, dams being built, and wildfires sweeping across landscapes are just some of the data accessible.

Worldview users can even create data animations at the touch of a button and easily share imagery, giving NASA's worldwide audience the ability to interactively view their world their way and interactively explore almost 20 years of planetary change.

A Constitution Minute I

August 31, 2015 by Staff Reports

Constitution Week is commemorated September 17 – 23. Celebrating Constitution Week has been a tradition for many years.

In 1955, the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** petitioned Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated to, or the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into Public Law #915, on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

This document is the most significant document ever created in the history of our world. It has withstood the passage of time with a small number of amendments, which speaks to its greatness.

Our Founding Fathers created a government where power and authority came from the people to the government, not the other way around. This is evidenced by the first three words of the preamble to the Constitution, We the People.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

This Constitution minute brought to you by the James Stewart Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution.



Stocking Up

Passing Parade, by Nelson A. Pryor, Guest Columnist

We have in our midst, in North Florida, a company that, country wide, operates 14,000 stores, and generates annual sales of \$22 billion. Yes, every day is dollar day, at the Dollar General.

Dollar General

Dollar General had its origins in a wholesale dry-goods business that Cal Turner, Sr. started with his father in 1939. Cal Sr. was a retail wizard. The first Dollar General opened in Springfield, Ky., in 1955. It was a small store for a small town, with all the products selling for a dollar or less. This was an era of transition in American retailing. The dry-goods stores and corner groceries serving rural America were giving way to the discount store and later the super center, which combined food with the discounter’s vast array of products.

Smaller towns, with merchants unable to buy in bulk, thus unable to compete dollar wise, were often left behind. The elder Turner’s bare-bones format filled that vacuum, as shoppers paid cash for the bargain goods he bought opportunistically as close-outs or irregulars and stuffed into his Scottsville, Ky., warehouse.

Cal Junior

Cal Junior joined Dollar General in 1965, after college and a tour as a Navy officer, and quickly became his father’s right hand. He became president of the no-frills retail chain in 1977.

Cal Junior recognized that the hard-pressed customers who patronized Dollar General were also hungry for bargains on other basic needs-items like toothpaste, detergent and even a limited assortment of food. That insight drove the company’s break-neck expansion.

By the 1980’s, Dollar General was operating thousands of stores, often in towns too small to support a Walmart, as well as in urban neighborhoods whose residents also struggled to afford necessities.

Heads South

Mr. Turner, in 1989, took the organization to Nashville, Tenn., where he found it easier to recruit talent.

Along with its personal chronicle, *My Fathers Business*, a book by Cal Turner, Jr., on Dollar General, offers a primer on bargain-driven mass merchandising. A low-margin enterprise demands discipline, and all the strategic planning in the world can’t overcome poor execution. Cal Senior had laid down rules for his managers, among them: “Work hard. Be honest. Don’t drink on the job. Don’t screw the help.” Cal Jr., revised some of those edicts and discarded others. He recognized that “the real genius in the company lay with the employees.”

Challenges

Mr. Turner writes with touching candor about the challenges of sustaining a family business. The hard choices he has to make to keep the business going affect other family members. The time comes when he has to confront his father, the chairman, when the older man resists plans for a new management information system. On one occasion, Cal Senior calls Cal Junior on the eve of a board meeting. “Son,” he says, “if you even take that proposal to the board, I may resign.” The very mention of computers to Cal Senior was “like waving red in front of a bull,” Turner recalls.

My Father’s Business turns on the trials and tensions behind an unusual father-son team, set against a backdrop of corporate change common to many growing companies.

Getting Control of a So-Far-Wasted Day



By Sheryl, June 2, 2018

It’s been another disappointing, unproductive day. Soon it will be bedtime, and you sorely wish you had done the day better.

Ignoring the grammatical incorrectness of that last sentence, isn’t this the way you feel, day after day, when you’re stuck in the midst of a procrastination season? So discouraged that you’ve given up hope of redeeming the few hours left of yet another day?

But ... what if, right now, you were to recall last week’s verse, (2 Timothy 1:7 [ESV] “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control”) and tear yourself away from the TV or the internet and ... get something done? Wow! *Wouldn’t that be awesome?*

In Ephesians 5:15-16, Paul tells us to make the best use of our time. You still have a few hours left in this day. These few hours can be the best hours of your day, if you want them to be. In light of 2 Timothy 1:7, try to imagine how a person who has been given a spirit of self-control would use these hours. *Then act like that person – by faith, see yourself as a self-disciplined person.*

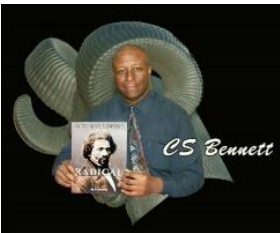
Like the disciplined person you are, tackle that task you’ve been putting off, or at least put a good-sized dent into it. Get up and mow the lawn, load or unload the dishwasher, or start a load of laundry. Iron that shirt or pack the kids’ lunches for the next day. And before you lay your head down to sleep, make a list of what you hope to accomplish tomorrow in the first half hour at the office or at home.

Several years ago, I struggled to complete even the smallest tasks. Putting a load of clothes into the washer or shampooing my hair seemed overwhelming. In desperation, I developed an accountability website, www.60MinuteChallenge.com, where I would set goals for 5, 15, 30 or 60 minutes. I was amazed at how well accountability worked for me – and how it still works for me.

Perhaps accountability would work for you, too. Visit my site and share your goals or, if you prefer, partner with a fellow-procrastinator. Text each other what you hope to get done within a designated time frame and follow-up to report your progress. Let’s choose to redeem our so-far-wasted days. If we get moving and experience the good feelings productivity brings, we can kick our procrastinating season in the teeth. Then we can go to bed feeling encouraged, because we did the day better.

What about you?

What Is It Going To Be?



By CS Bennett, June 1, 2018

On the surface, it may appear that we, the defenders of liberty and freedom, are headed towards another victory in November against the defenders of government dependency, intrusion and regulations. Republicans were behind the eight ball in early polls this year. Some had us down by as many as 17 points. And now we are ahead by as many as 6 points in most polls. That is a 23 point swing in just a matter of months. This is simply amazing. What was once the threat of a Blue Wave has now turned into what is now a possible Red Tidal Wave. So, what can go wrong, you might ask?

Infighting, and missteps, that is what can go wrong. Since the dawn of the Trump era, the Republican Party has undergone a Renaissance, or rebirth. The party is becoming more prominent, as its membership rolls continue to swell. Membership in it is becoming much

less a stigma and taboo in the Black community. And what it stands for, verses what liberalism stands for, is becoming much clearer and accepted. More and more minorities are joining our side and speaking out. And that is a good thing. Destroying the democrats’ grip on the Black community is a good thing, as well. More successful Blacks, who are lovers of freedom and liberty, equates to less urban strife and criminality. That is a message we should be pursuing and promoting.

Because of the policies of Trump, the economy is roaring, the unemployment rate is as low as its been in decades, and our standing in the eyes of the world is one of great respect again. We are also close to being energy independent. And we are slowly bringing back manufacturing jobs. People are keeping more of their hard earned money, thanks to the tax cuts, and the overall consensus is that this country is on the right track.

The problem the Republican Party must take seriously is the infighting beneath the surface. It can destroy us in a way the democrats would love to but never could. There is still a battle for power and domination of the party between Establishment types and the conservative faction of the party. There remains the rift between party leadership and Black conservatives, who feel like second rate citizens within the party. And then, there is the uneasiness some Black Republicans have with rising Black media stars, such as Candace Owens, Lucretia Hughes and Kanye West, whose motives, and core conservative beliefs, they question. I say let their voices be heard since they have the potential to bring more Blacks into the fold.

If the Republican Party is going to survive its own success, it will have to come to terms with the discord that threatens to undo all of its accomplishments. It must make clear what the party stands for, and what it will not tolerate or stand for. It must work to unify the membership. And its leaders have to start focusing on bringing in more minorities and stop treating them as a lost and unworthy cause with little value to the party. To this I say, learn the history of the Republican Party, my compatriots, and learn why it came into existence, and for what purpose. Then do what it takes to embrace its original core principles, which were as noble a cause as Moses and the Exodus from Egypt, and return this party to the proud and grand ole party (GOP) it was once before. Only then will our success and relevance last for many generations to come...



REPUBLICANS SEE MASSIVE SURGE IN FEMALE CANDIDATES

By Virginia Kruta, Contributor, June 4, 2018, dailycaller.com

Republicans have seen a massive surge in female candidates in the first election cycle following the #metoo movement.

According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, the number of GOP women running for House seats in 2018 has more than doubled since 2016, from 48 to 103.

The National Republican Congressional Committee’s (NRCC) press secretary Jesse Hunt explained, “We’ve seen an intense level of interest from Republican women in running for Congress this cycle, and some of the strongest candidates we have running currently are females in competitive districts. It’s a testament to their backgrounds, their careers, and their ability to communicate the Republican message.”

Credit for the increase in female involvement belongs in large part to 33-year-old New York Republican Elise Stefanik. She is also the first woman to spearhead recruitment for the House GOP.

The numbers have changed considerably since April when NBC reported on a number of Republican women who were retiring, and only a 35 percent increase in female Republican candidates.

Republicans still have a long way to go to catch up with Democrats, who have a record-breaking 305 female candidates (including incumbents) running for House seats in 2018.

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A Korean War veteran pays for the upkeep of Independence, Iowa's large American flag and welcome sign for Memorial Day. (Photo: Francis Dean/Newscom)

Korean War Veteran Fights, Wins Battle to Restore Iowa Town's US Flag

By Katherine Rohloff, June 4, 2018, dailysignal.com

An elderly Korean War veteran and a few hundred dollars were all it took to get the City Council of Independence, Iowa, to reverse its decisions to stop flying the city's most prominent American flag and not to keep its welcome sign illuminated.

Before Memorial Day, after waiting for others to step up and fund the town's landmarks after the City Council voted unanimously on April 30 not to, Bill Coulter took matters into his own hands and offered to pay for their upkeep.

"They said 'Welcome to Independence' was too expensive to operate," Coulter said of the electric bill in an interview on the Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" morning program on Tuesday. "I went to find out how expensive the bill was. It was \$10 a month."

Independence City Manager Al Roder told The Daily Signal, "We had some issues with maintenance of the flag and worked with the county to move it to the veterans memorial near the courthouse. The memorial is still being built, but the [original] discussion was to move the flagpole in light of the conditions."

Specifically, because of high winds in the area that tatter the giant 12-foot-by-18-foot flag, the City Council must replace it every eight to 12 weeks at a cost of \$310 per flag.

Coulter, whose brother and son are also veterans, was not deterred. He appeared in front of the council on Tuesday to present a proposal for the private funding of the flag and welcome sign. He already had four donors lined up who each paid for a flag, and he was willing to look for others.

After listening to Coulter's proposal, the City Council unanimously voted to reverse its original decision, which had been made April 30. It also voted to keep financial responsibility with the city, but a group of locals have raised money for the flags.

Roder said the northeast Iowa town—whose population was just under 6,000 as of the 2010 census—has created a private-public partnership, which was what they had hoped for prior to the meeting. "[Tuesday night's decision] was an appropriate example of democracy at work," he said. "The council made a decision that they thought was prudent, but the [residents] showed that they wanted it to be different, so they voiced their opinions, and their opinions made change [through the democratic process]."

Where are the Gerawan Farming Workers' ballots from the 2013 UFW decertification election?

Calif. Farm Workers' Appellate Court Victory to Evict United Farm Workers Union



Gerawan Farming workers just won a huge victory over the United farm Workers labor union and California Agricultural Labor Relations Board. In a 3-0 decision, the Fifth District Court of Appeal ordered the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board to count the workers’ ballots from the November 2013 election to decertify the United Farm Workers labor union, and issue a tally.



By Katy Grimes, June 5, 2018, [canadafreepress.com](#)

But where are the ballots? The decertification election took place November 3, 2013. After all of the ballots were in, the ALRB impounded them, refused to count them, locked them away, and initiated legal proceedings against Gerawan Farming. Then, less than two weeks later, the ALRB adopted the unwanted collective-bargaining agreement and mandatory mediation, and the UFW filed an enforcement action to force Gerawan to comply.

Two years later in 2015, an ALRB judge ordered the ballots destroyed from the labor union decertification election, rather than have them counted. The vote was expected to overwhelmingly support decertification, which would have removed the workers from the union’s undesired purview.

The ballots need to be located immediately, and out of the hands of the ALRB. When the judges asked ALRB attorney Todd Ratshin about the location of the ballots, he was unable to say where they are located. “I believe the ballots are in a safe being preserved,” Ratshin said. “Do you know where?” the judge asked. “I believe they are in Visalia, but I am not positive,” Ratshin said.

The Ag Labor Board is composed of five members and a General Counsel, all of whom were appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. Brown created The California Agricultural Labor Relations Board in 1975.

ALRB Spends \$13-\$15 million (Taxpayer Dollars) To Destroy the Ballots

Gerawan Farming, a family owned business, is the largest grower of tree fruit in California, both in number of employees and the amount of fruit that it grows. Gerawan, the highest paying fruit farming operation in the region, also grows and harvests substantial quantities of table grapes and wine grapes on thousands of acres of farmland in the Kerman area, and the Reedley/Sanger area.

The UFW won an election to represent Gerawan Farming’s workers 27 years ago. But after only one bargaining session, the union disappeared and wasn’t heard from for more than 20 years. In October 2012, the union reappeared to impose a contract on Gerawan Farming and its employees—without a vote of the workers.

“The ALRB estimates that 2,600 votes were cast by Gerawan Farming workers in the November 2013 decertification vote,” I wrote in 2016. “Even if the entire ALRB budget is not devoted to the Gerawan Farming cases, just the required increase in spending to handle the Gerawan Farming cases is more than \$10 million. This means ALRB has spent more than \$4,100 per vote to deny farmworkers their legal rights to be heard.” That was two years ago, and the ALRB hasn’t stopped its witch hunt against Gerawan. So while the American media is focused on Robert Mueller’s faux \$17 million “Russian Collusion” case, California’s ALRB has spent almost as much suppressing the ballots of immigrant farm workers.

The ALRB Lost Sight of its Mission

The Court finds that the ALRB “effectively lost sight of the . . . value of protecting the farmworkers’ right to choose.”

The judges’ decision, all 139 pages of it, make it very clear they take this matter extremely seriously. The

court’s decision mandates that when the ALRB calls an election based on a sufficient showing of support, the ALRB must count the ballots.

The decision also recognizes that the decertification drive was “a worker-initiated and worker led movement.” (p. 129) That conclusion, along with the more than majority support from the workers (as certified by the ALRB) asking for an election on whether to decertify the UFW, underscores why it is so important to count the ballots now.

“Thankfully, the Court has gone to great effort to remind the ALRB of what its core purpose is, which is to protect the workers’ right to vote,” Gerawan Attorney Ron Barsamian said. “I am extremely happy for the workers who have long suffered at the hands of the UFW and the ALRB in this matter.”

During oral argument, Gerawan attorney Stanford Law Professor Michael McConnell told the judges they were the last redress the workers had, and asked, “What harm could it cause to count the ballots? What are they [the ALRB] scared of?”

McConnell also addressed two very key issues in the case:

- After thousands of the Gerawan workers signed a petition in September 2013 to have the decertification election, they were denied the election by an ALRB Regional Director. Days later there was a massive walkout at Gerawan Farming by the workers over this decision. Yet the ALRB slapped Gerawan Farming with an unfair labor practices charge claiming Gerawan should have stopped its employees from striking, and/or engaging in a protest. However, attorney McConnell argued that Gerawan was only allowing its employees to engage in their fundamental right to choose.
- In October 2013, 400 Gerawan workers took a bus from Reedly in the Central Valley to Sacramento to plead with the ALRB at their board meeting to reverse the decision of the Regional Director and allow the election. McConnell said it was not a petition or signature gathering event, “but was a classic petition by Americans to their government to redress grievances.” I was with the workers this day, and the ALRB turned them away without hearing them. ‘The ALRB then slapped Gerawan Farming with an unfair labor practices charge for failing to prevent the protest. “It is not the job of government agencies in this country to demand that employers punish their workers for exercising their Constitutional rights,” McConnell argued. “It cannot be an unfair labor practice if it’s their Constitutional right.”

The Gerawan workers have been nothing if not strong and determined throughout this lengthy battle with a giant, well-funded state agency—even in the face of vile intimidation tactics worthy of Josef Stalin—as well as intimidation from the UFW. Both the ALRB and UFW officials have intervened in these legal processes with lies, shady thug tactics and undemocratic behavior.

This legal decision is quite thorough, comprehensive, and appears to be written in such a way as to tie the hands of the California Supreme Court, should it be appealed, largely because of the state Supreme Court’s decision upholding California’s Mandatory Mediation and Conciliation secrecy law.

Despite the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Fresno unanimously striking down California’s Mandatory Mediation and Conciliation secrecy law as unconstitutional in 2015, the California Supreme Court went in the opposite direction and decided last year that the state can force an agency-dictated “collective bargaining agreement” on an employer and its employees. That decision is on appeal with the United States Supreme Court.

The arguments centered around so-called “Mandatory Mediation and Conciliation” amendments to the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which the California Court of Appeal ruled violate equal protection principles and unlawfully delegate power to the state’s Agricultural Labor Relations Board allowing the United Farm Workers to impose a contract on Gerawan Farming and its employees.

In May 2015, that court unanimously held that the ALRB’s forced contracting scheme is “the antithesis of equal protection” because it imposes a contract “by administrative edict” based on “a distinct, unequal, individualized set of rules” for each employer.

Not the Last Legal Swipe

As far back as August 2013, California Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Y. Hamilton, Jr., took one of the ALRB attorneys to task for working overtime to stop farm workers from voting on whether to decertify the UFW as their collective bargaining representative.

Hamilton accused the ALRB lawyer of “overreach” in his legal authority in trying to stop the vote.

“So the court is very suspect of the ALRB’s position here,” Hamilton said. “It almost seems like it’s in cahoots” with the UFW. It appears that the “cahoots” days between the ALRB and the UFW may be coming to an end.

U.S. Economy Continuing to Fire on All Cylinders



Image: 3alexnd via Vetta / iStock / Getty Images Plus

By Bob Adelman, May 31, 2018, [thenewamerican.com](#)

Polls, surveys, and other economic and financial indicators just released confirm that the U.S. economy continues to generate goods and services at a torrid pace. Following a report by the government that the gross domestic product (GDP) came in slightly under forecast for the first quarter of 2018 at 2.2 percent annual growth, the New York Federal Reserve’s Nowcast is at three percent for the second quarter, while the St. Louis Fed’s Eco News index is predicting 3.6 percent growth and the Atlanta Fed’s Nowcast comes in at four percent.

Following ADP’s jobs report on Wednesday that the economy added 178,000 new jobs in April, forecasters are predicting that the jobs report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on Friday should come in close to 200,000.

Consumers are enjoying their tax cuts by spending some of their extra money at a greater rate than many expected. The government’s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) just reported that consumer spending jumped 0.6 percent in April, following hard after a 0.5 percent jump in March.

The Federal Reserve’s “beige book” — an anecdotal review of economic activity noted by the Fed’s 12 regional banks — showed the U.S. economy “shifted into high gear” last month despite concerns over Trump’s tariffs. The Fed noted: “Contacts noted some concern about the uncertainty of international trade policy. Still, outlooks for near term growth were generally upbeat. Economic activity expanded moderately in late April and early May, with few shifts in the pattern of growth.”

Leo Nelissen, an investment advisor writing for Seeking Alpha, looks at five regional banks’ surveys every month and then combines them into a report to his clients. Every one of them remain strong, with “sub-indicators” (i.e., new orders, shipments, employment, prices, and future capital expenditures) showing continued improvement, with one regional index (Kansas City’s) reaching a new all-time high. New orders remain robust, with shipments reflecting them. Said Nelissen, “We are seeing one of the biggest increases [in shipping activity] since the start of the upswing in 2016 ... indicat[ing] further strength for the U.S. transportation industry.”

Regional manufacturing employment “almost made a new high in May after starting an impressive rally in 2017,” added Nelissen.

Capex (capital expenditures), according to Nelissen, “is still at rock-solid levels. Not even 2010 got close to the current expectations.” All of which, according to Nelissen, bodes well for stocks: “[Our indicators] this month have shown that there is more momentum to the upside which is likely going to support the stock market ... in the next three to six months.”

Continue Reading at [thenewamerican.com](#)



Their Son Is Suicidal Because of Bullying. They Blame an Obama-Era School Discipline Policy



YouTube screen shot
Kelsey Harkness, June 3, 2018, dailysignal.com

PARKVILLE, Md.—Nicole Landers found a note written by her 9-year-old son, Jared. “Kill me. I mean nothing. I have issues,” it read.

Her son’s April 16 note, Landers said, was the culmination of months of bullying Jared endured in the classroom. That bullying included being struck in the face and thrown in the mud by another student. Even threats of electrocution.

“Jared has been relentlessly bullied,” his stepfather, Josh Landers, told The Daily Signal. “To the point of being suicidal.”

The Landerses tried addressing the situation with officials at Pine Grove Elementary School in Carney, Maryland, where Jared, who has since turned 10, is in fourth grade.

The parents provided documentation to The Daily Signal of bullying reports they filed with Baltimore County Public Schools throughout the year, including communication from April, when the situation became dire.

Nicole and Josh Landers say their 12-year-old daughter, Tamar, has faced multiple instances of sexual harassment in the same school district. They say Justin, their 18-year-old son, was threatened after reporting a student with a knife in class at his school, Loch Raven High School.

Officials at Baltimore County Public Schools, the parents say, are unable to provide a safe learning environment for their three children, who remain enrolled in the school district. They blame an Obama-era school discipline policy.

The U.S. Department of Education had good intentions in establishing the policy, noting that black students in the 2011-12 school year were three times as likely to be suspended and expelled as white students. Many argued that high suspension rates for minority students contributed to a “school-to-prison pipeline,” where already disadvantaged children ended up incarcerated.

To address this disparity, the Obama administration established new school discipline guidelines in 2014. Using the threat of civil rights lawsuits, the policy urged the nation’s schools to use positive reinforcement instead of punishing students’ bad behavior by suspending or expelling them.

“We went from a policy of zero tolerance to extreme tolerance,” Josh Landers says. “All that it has done is caused chaos within classrooms. It has disarmed teachers from having the ability to control their classes and stay safe and protected. Students are bullied relentlessly.”

In order to address this, Nicole and Josh Landers started Parents Against School Violence, a group that is calling on Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to rescind the Obama administration’s 2014 guidance. DeVos is in the process of reviewing those guidelines, and hasn’t made a decision.

The Landerses, however, say they don’t have time to wait. Next year, they plan to send Jared and Tamar to private school.

“I’m not confident that both of the children we still have left in the public school, that they would both

come out alive or not seriously harmed,” Nicole Landers says.

“We’ve done some investigations with a couple of private schools, and we’re going to bite the bullet,” Josh Landers adds.

The Landerses say they aren’t sure how they’ll pay for private school, but that extra work, second jobs, and God will help.

“We will go to whatever lengths that we have to, to ensure not only their most basic safety within the school system, but also the benefit of a healthy education,” Josh Landers says of Jared and Tamar.

Watch The Daily Signal’s feature video above to learn more about this policy and hear the Landerses’ full story.

Mass Shootings Spark Growing Interest in Homeschooling



By Alex Newman, May 29, 2018, freedomproject.com

The perversion, lies, dumbing down, fake history, anti-God pseudo-science, and flagrant immorality promoted in government schools was apparently not enough to get parents to pay attention — but the consequences of that evil are waking people up in huge numbers. Amid an apparent wave of school shootings exploited by the press to attack gun rights, a growing number of parents are now exploring a much more sensible option: withdrawing their children entirely.

In fact, according to multiple news reports, it is clear that interest in homeschooling across America is surging in response to the perceived increase in shootings. On February 15, for example, the Miami Herald wrote an article under the headline: “In the wake of the Douglas High massacre, some parents ponder home schooling.” The article documents surging interest in home education among parents and explains how to legally remove children from school.

Similar headlines are appearing after each shooting. After a recent school shooting in Texas, more media outlets also began reporting on the trend. An ABC affiliate in Alabama, for instance, reported on the phenomenon under the headline: “Parents consider homeschooling kids after deadly school shootings.”

The Foundation for Economic Education picked up on the growing interest, too. And the writer, Kerry McDonald, ridiculed comments by a government-school teacher that leaving public schools is “running from reality.” “But that raises the question: Is compulsory mass schooling ‘reality?’” she asked. Of course not.

A deluge of social media posts make the growing interest in home education clear, as well. “Well, guess I am homeschooling my children,” wrote Juliet, a young mother, on Twitter after the Parkland shooting. “Wasn’t my plan, but I don’t need to wonder every day if my kids will come home from school.”

The next day, another mom posted a similar tweet. “I know I say in my tweets I’m considering homeschooling,” she wrote. “Researched it and I’ve decided it’s not something I’m gonna consider anymore. I’m 100 % DOING this.” Countless similar posts could be found on Twitter and other social media outlets.

Ironically, the Obama administration's totalitarian-minded Education Secretary Arne Duncan has actually encouraged parents to keep their children home until Congress passes anti-gun legislation. Since that appears unlikely — especially considering the protections for gun-rights enshrined in the Second

Amendment — they may be home for quite a while. At least we can hope.

School shootings were actually more common in the 1990s, and have been declining since then, according to research picked up on the growing interest from Northeastern University. But the fact is that, before God, prayer, morality, and common sense were expelled from school fifty years ago, school shootings and teen suicide were almost non-existent. Decreased parental involvement has also been cited as a factor.

But the increased interest in homeschooling in response to the evil that now permeates government “education” — the fruits of which include suicide, mass murder, promiscuity, abortion, and more — should be considered a welcome development. Hopefully the growing interest in homeschooling will turn into a mass exodus from government indoctrination centers in the years ahead.

While the school shootings are a horrific tragedy, they must be understood as the inevitable consequence of the lies and wickedness being pushed on children in government school. The solution is not gun control — after all, guns were far easier to access in the 1950s, and dozens of school children are massacred in knife attacks in Communist China to this day. The kids need protection not from guns or knives, but from the lies and indoctrination pushed at school that motivate people to kill.

For concerned parents, the only sensible option is to remove their children from public school. It is sad that it took a series of mass shootings to get people to realize that.

Homeschooling is one great option. And for those parents who need help, there are options such as online school through FreedomProject Academy to help out.

The important thing is to protect the children — and to do it now.



VIRGINIA K-12 TEACHERS EARN CERTIFICATES AFTER LEARNING ABOUT BLACK MICROAGGRESSIONS

By Rob Shimshock, Education Reporter, June 3, 2018

Nine Virginia public school teachers earned certificates Saturday after learning about microaggressions black students could face in the classroom.

Teachers in Albemarle County received certificates for completing the third annual Cultural Diversity Conference hosted at Monticello High School, reported NBC29. The program strives to decrease the achievement disparity between students of various ethnicities and backgrounds.

“Sometimes we push out microaggressions that causes a reaction for students to shut down rather than be motivated,” Albemarle Public Schools’ executive director of community engagement Bernard Hairston, who wrote the program, said. “And oftentimes those are just common-day statements that we make that we don’t realize they are intentional and are unintended statements that cause reactions.”

While nine teachers earned cultural diversity certificates Saturday, eight Albemarle educators have earned them in the previous three years.

“It’s a really reflective internal journey that calls you to really look deep inside and think about what are

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

your assumptions and biases,” Kale Elementary School assistant principal Ben Allen said.

Allen has also received a certificate from the program, which took him a year to complete.

“The school district is taking this seriously, which makes me feel better as a person and more comfortable as a black male in Albemarle County, so I really do appreciate this,” Albemarle High School junior Marquan Jones said.

While it now seems to have permeated down into K-12 schools, microaggression education is typically seen at the university level. Some universities are still hosting microaggression seminars, despite the end of classes.

Support for First Amendment Eroding Among College Students



By James Murphy, April 9,2018, thenewamerican.com

“I do not agree with what you have to say, but I’ll defend to the death your right to say it,” Evelyn Beatrice Hall once wrote. Hall’s pithy, concise quote is considered by many to be the ultimate defense of free speech. It was a truism; something we all, liberal and conservative alike, agreed upon in America. But on American college campuses in recent years, it appears as if an unseen editor has added the clause “unless what you say offends me” to Hall’s quote.

A recent Gallup/Knight Foundation survey gives some interesting insights into how today’s college students view our First Amendment-protected rights.

Twenty-nine percent of college students said it is acceptable for colleges to “promote a positive environment” by prohibiting certain speech, up from 22 percent in 2016, while 70 percent said they favored an “open learning environment” that allowed offensive speech, down from 78 percent in 2016.

Inclusion is apparently more important to today’s college students than free speech. When asked which is more important, protecting free speech rights or promoting an inclusive environment, students chose inclusion 53 percent to 46 percent. While being inclusive is certainly important, there’s no way it should more important than a person’s right to speak their mind without fear of retribution.

And that retribution is not simply a matter of being shouted down by oversensitive fellow students or marginalized by leftist professors. Many universities have now enacted speech codes, which prohibit certain speech on campuses. Failing to comply with these speech codes often comes with real life penalties, including fines, academic probation, and even expulsion. With America’s universities now “abridging the freedom of speech” on campuses, are such restrictions on everyday Americans far behind?

Thirty-seven percent of college students believe that it is sometimes acceptable to shout down speakers with whom they disagree. More startling, 10 percent of students believe that it is acceptable to use violence in order to shut down a speech. While 10 percent seems like a low number, if the poll is correct, it means that more than two million American college students believe that it is ok to use violence in order to shut down a speaker they disagree with. This is what happened last year when Charles Murray attempted to speak at Middlebury College in Vermont.

It’s easy to forget how good we’ve had it in America. While many places in the world claim to cherish the concept of free speech, the United States is really the only place where it is codified in law that the right exists. On that note, while the majority of college students surveyed did support the First Amendment's protections for freedom of speech, they feel those rights are becoming less secure in America. Sixty-four percent of students believe that the right to free speech is secure, down from 73 percent in 2016. Belief that the freedom of religion is secure is more stable, but still dropped from 68 percent in 2016 down to 64 percent. Belief that the freedom of the press is secure dropped radically, from 81 percent in 2016 down to 60 percent today.

Canada offers a good example as to where free-speech rights in this country could be headed. In June of 2017, our neighbor to the north passed bill C-16, a law which compels Canadians to use the pronouns that transgender people prefer under penalty of law. Misuse of such pronouns (including manufactured pronouns such as ze, zir, hir, and mer) is considered a “hate crime” in Canada.

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