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Psychic Predictions 2020

By Andy Caldwell

I begin this new year with my annual list of psychic predictions albeit with a twist. That is, I am going to admit I failed to predict some of the things that came our way this past year because some things were, well, beyond belief!

Holy stupefying gender-bending twist of fate, Batman! The Santa Barbara Women’s Political Committee has endorsed Das Williams for county supervisor over Laura Capps? Does that mean that Sarah Miller McCune, Janet Wolf, Susan Rose, et al have lost their poligrip on the PC Women’s PC?

Speaking of Das Williams, of “How Great Thou Art” fame, he had the not-so-humble temerity to claim that he and his fellow virtue-signaling travelers, namely Supervisors Greg Hart and Joan Hartmann, are global leaders in the fight against climate change. Reminds me of the saying, a leader with no one following them is just a person on a walk! In this case, a walk discussing how great they are in an echo chamber of their own vain glory.

Who could have predicted that Hunter Biden, the son of democrat presidential contender, Joe Biden, would work for an oil and gas company? What does that say about the progressive left’s doom and gloom psychotic predictions that mankind is facing an existential crisis having to do with greenhouse gases and climate change? Along these same lines, why would Barack Obama buy an estate on an island in light of the imminent threat of sea level rise?

I was in a restaurant the other day and asked the waitress for a straw. She said she would have to go to the kitchen to get one because she didn’t have a concealed carry permit for a straw! No kidding! Contrast that with the fact that in some states you don’t need a permit to open carry a gun in a restaurant! How about admitting that neither of the following poses a danger to society, guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens and straws that will be properly disposed of!

Time Magazine named Greta Thunberg as their person of the year. A few weeks later, this seething teenager remarked that political leaders who do not address climate change “should be put up against the wall”. Oops! Time Magazine must be thinking of the last time they named someone with world-domination aspirations as their person of the year, Adolph Hitler! Immediately following her statement, Greta apolo-

gized and claimed she was misunderstood. I am not sure Neville Chamberlain would buy that! After all, other climate change activists, including Obama’s former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, have publicly considered prosecuting climate change deniers, with some people recommending they be held on murder charges.

Finally, have you heard of “otherkins” or “transspecies”? These are people who identify as animals, real or imaginary. In some local schools, kids who identify as such want to dress and be addressed by way of their alternative identity. In the meantime, Universal pictures has decreed that chimps used in movies can no longer be dressed as humans. Who can blame the chimps for not wanting to be confused with a lesser species?

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California's Most Memorable Political Moments Of 2019

By Katy Grimes

California Globe unpacks some of the state's recent unforgettable acts in state government

During his swearing in on January 7, 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom wowed the crowds at his inauguration. But many wondered about his intentions following eight years as a frustrated and even bored California Lieutenant Governor.

Newsom did not disappoint in terms of keeping the media abuzz. Nor did the California Legislature.

This review of some of the most memorable moments in California politics during 2019 is made possible by the input and expertise of many policy experts and political wonks in Sacramento throughout 2019, and on the pages of California Globe.

Executive Orders, Signed Bills, Special Dispensations and Vetoes

Gov. Newsom signed 70 bills that his predecessor Jerry Brown had vetoed the prior year or two, and he vetoed nearly two dozen bills that Brown had also vetoed.

Through an Executive Order, California Governor Gavin Newsom has redirected gas tax money to fund railway systems and other projects. Californians pay the highest gas prices in the nation, most of which is taxes. The gas tax revenue would have repaired and upgraded the state's broken highways and roads.

CEQA dispensation: Gov. Newsom signed legislation to let only Los Angeles bypass most of the California Environmental Quality Act to build housing for the homeless and shelters. This exemption is usually only reserved for professional sports arenas and stadiums.

Homeless Vagrants Allowed to Wallow in Filth on California Streets

Homelessness Epidemic: California's vagrant street population exploded in 2019, bringing with it diseases once thought to have been mostly eradicated by the 15th century. Radio host and physician, Dr. Drew Pinsky sounded the alarms that the bubonic plague, carried by rats, could explode on the streets of Los Angeles because of the filth that more than 160,000 homeless vagrants were living in. Hepatitis, typhoid fever – another medieval disease – and hundreds of cases of typhus in Los Angeles County, Pinsky said the entire population of California may be at risk.



Sacramento, San Francisco (and its notorious online defecation maps), San Diego, Fresno, and most other cities experienced identical homeless explosions, along with a major spike in property crimes and health conditions.

Amid these serious disease outbreaks, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law a package of bills banning the sale of new fur products, banning certain animals from being used in circus acts, and legislation prohibiting hunting or killing bobcats in California.

'Fires, Floods and Fools'

Climate Change Hysteria: Following in the footsteps of former Gov. Jerry Brown and his claim of the "existential threat of climate change," numerous state and local California politicians continued to declare a "climate state of emergency" replete with the usual hyperbole like "this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years" and "The United States has repeatedly obstructed efforts to transition to a green economy and thus bears extraordinary responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats," reported Andy Caldwell, congressional candidate in California's 24th congressional district on the Central Coast.

Caldwell suffers no fools. "Having written nearly 2,000 opinion columns in the course of my career, there is one particular subject that I have repeated over and

(Continued on page 16)

The County's One-Trick Pony!

By Andy Caldwell

Well, the county picked its poison - vaping! The other two choices were marijuana and heroin! That is, when the county's health director and the do-gooders on the board of supervisors decided to pretend they were going "all in" on harm reduction, they declared a holy jihad on vaping by way of eliminating said products from the market place. However, they did the exact opposite on cannabis, and indirectly, heroin!

The sups banned the sale of vaping products in the county despite the indication that the recent spate of teen deaths involving vaping had to do with black market vaping products used to inhale such things as marijuana derivatives. At this very same hearing, the board of sups, without any hesitation whatsoever, approved an ongoing free syringe needle exchange for heroin addicts, again, in the name of harm reduction!

To fully appreciate what is going on here, we must all come to terms with the fact that we don't live in a black and white world when it comes to the use of drugs. For instance, there is no doubt that vaping is popular with young people and that vaping products that contain nicotine can facilitate addiction. However, when the county's health director got on her high horse to warn the community about the dangers of vaping, she left out two important details.

First, and foremost, vaping is a safer alternative than cigarettes and many cigarette smokers have been able to quit smoking cigarettes by switching to vaping. Second, by banning something that is now legal, the county's action will drive people to the black market, the same market that still sells cannabis and heroin!

To complicate matters even further, one of the reasons America is seeing a rise in opioid overdoses has to do with the success in shutting down pill mills pushing drugs like OxyContin. In essence, heroin has become easier and cheaper to obtain! Moreover, communities like San Francisco now have clinics where people can shoot up under medical supervision with clean needles, of course!

With regard to IV drug users, the county has authorized the free needle distribution for decades, with no stipulations that the program demonstrate it helped at least some people get clean and sober. This is because the harm reduction focus is on the transmission of hepatitis, rather than the deleterious effects of IV

drug abuse, henceforth, the public health director doesn't question the efficacy of the program as it relates to drug abuse. Hence, the hearing on vaping got all the attention, while the needle exchange program was completely ignored.

Finally, how can our local supervisors miss the elephant in the room? That is, the marijuana derivatives have been the apparent cause of illness and deaths, yet these same supervisors have countenanced some of the largest marijuana operations in the state. Despite the numerous hearings conducted on facilitating marijuana grows, I can only recall one report from the public health director warning about the negative consequences of smoking recreational marijuana. Perhaps that is because the health director's high horse is a one-trick pony?

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Das Williams vs Laura Capps

By Andy Caldwell

Several people in the community are nefariously trying to drag me into the Das Williams versus Laura Capps supervisor's race by insinuating that I align with Supervisor Williams on marijuana and that I am thereby supporting his reelection campaign.

The truth is that I opposed Proposition 64 which legalized recreational marijuana. I also opposed loopholes that allowed recreational users to pretend they had a legitimate need for medical marijuana. Finally, I have been critical of the fact that county officials rolled out the red carpet for the marijuana industry because they saw dollar signs in their eyes, and because they hoped tax revenue from grow operations would replace the money generated by the oil industry which they wish to terminate.

Having said all that, a large number of people in Carpinteria are rightfully upset about the stink emanating from marijuana grows in their neighborhood. It is the county's just comeuppance that its marijuana gold rush has created problems galore and I am not about to become an apologist on its behalf.

On the other hand, some of the people who want County Supervisor Das Williams to lose his job are simply exploiting the marijuana issues as an excuse to settle old political scores. Yes, Sarah Miller McCune, I am talking about you!

Personally, I have always wanted to live up to the maxim, in my position in the community as a watchdog, columnist and talk show host, to never report a lie and never refuse to publish the truth. Having said that, in these days of living in a post-truth society characterized by intense political acrimony, the goal of being forthright comes at a price.

That is, I do have an amenable working relationship with Supervisor Williams. Unlike the politicians who have been supported by the likes of Ms. McCune, including former county Supervisor Wolf, Das can be reasoned with on some issues. Nevertheless, both

Williams and Capps, the latter of whom I have never worked with, are both in my opinion, hopelessly progressive. It is no surprise that I believe that most of the values and public policy priorities of progressives are failing America, therefore I can't see myself endorsing either of these candidates.

Nonetheless, it behooves voters who are concerned about the deleterious impacts to our children and our community in general of smoking and/or smelling pot, to be similarly concerned about other types of rot that deserve equal time and attention. Capps would like to glide into the supervisor's seat by way of her supposed opposition to cannabis and her family's political legacy. However, the community would be well served to hold her own political record up to the light regarding the policies and priorities she has countenanced in her role as a local school board member. This would include the "Just Communities" debacle along with a dangerous sex education curriculum.

In addition to disseminating propaganda associated with so-called white privilege, as the LA Times reported, some of the books that have been suggested as school resources to implement the so-called "California Healthy Youth Act, included "S.E.X.: The All-You-Need-to-Know Sexuality Guide to Get You Through Your Teens and Twenties," which includes descriptions of anal sex and bondage! In no uncertain terms, today's sex-ed curriculum is exposing our children to pornography and they are being groomed in the process! Our kids are being indoctrinated and propagandized that anything goes as long as it is consensual.

The point here is that our society is in desperate need of moral leadership in this instance having to do with drugs and those who use sex as a drug. Williams vs Capps might, therefore, be a distinction without a difference.

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**Howard Jarvis
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Correcting Ballot Measure Deception

By *Jon Coupal*

A few weeks ago, this column recounted how progressive labor interests and their allies in government have stacked the deck against taxpayers in their efforts to qualify and pass the infamous “split roll” initiative. The measure, entitled the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020, would remove one of Proposition 13’s most important protections — the limitation on annual increases in taxable value — from business and commercial properties. The increased tax burden would be passed along to consumers and taxpayers who are already struggling with California’s high cost of living.

Proponents of this massive \$12 billion property tax increase have surpassed collecting 25 percent of the signatures needed to place the measure on the November 2020 ballot.

One-party rule in California allows the proponents of split roll to tip the scales in their favor in two significant ways.

First, rather than discharge his duties to prepare a fair and objective title and summary for the initiative petitions, Attorney General Xavier Becerra has, once again, revealed himself to be little more than a partisan politician. The biased title he assigned for the initiative petitions themselves does not say that the measure increases taxes, merely that it “increases funding” by “changing tax assessment.”

Is it really so hard to simply say, “increases property taxes?”

In response to Becerra’s failure to discharge his fiduciary duty in a fair and impartial manner, the taxpayer coalition opposing the measure has put him on notice that, unless the title and summary prepared for the actual ballot material is changed from the “circulating” title on the petitions, they would seek a remedy in the courts.

The second way proponents are deceiving voters is by misrepresenting what the measure does as they continue to gather signatures for qualification. As noted above, the proposal repeals in part an important protection of Prop. 13, resulting in billions in higher property taxes every year. And yet, those collecting signatures have put signs on their tables in front of supermarkets and shopping malls that say “Protect Proposition 13” as if the measure actually benefited

taxpayers and property owners. Putting it bluntly, this is an abject lie.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has received hundreds of reports of signature gatherers who have set up tables outside of major shopping venues with signs that read “Sign Here to Protect Prop. 13” or similar messages. Countless voters have been tricked into signing petitions based on these misrepresentations.

Fortunately, these voters have the option to remove their signatures from petitions they were misled into signing.

To assist voters with this process, HJTA has launched an informational campaign. Instructions on how to remove your signature can be found on the HJTA website at www.HJTA.org. Look for the flashing red light at the top of the page that reads, “Find Out” (if you have mistakenly signed a petition for an initiative that would raise property taxes). Click the flashing light to learn all you need to know to rescind a signature from a petition you didn’t mean to sign. Taxpayers can also help in spreading the word to their friends and neighbors who may also have been deceived.

But the best way concerned voters and taxpayers can avoid being tricked into signing a bad initiative is to sign nothing. It is important to realize that there are no initiative petitions currently being circulated that benefit taxpayers! If any signature gatherer tries to tell you that a current initiative petition protects Prop. 13, or that they are representing the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, it’s a lie.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.



The Three Stooges' Weather Report

By Andy Caldwell

Supervisors Joan Hartman and Greg Hart affirmed Supervisor Das William's declared "climate state of emergency" replete with the usual hyperbole like "this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years" and "The United States has repeatedly obstructed efforts to transition to a green economy and thus bears extraordinary responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats".

The resolution also included the preposterous notion that these three county supervisors are "global leaders" in the effort to stave off the existential threat of climate change even though the very same declaration confessed that the greenhouse gas emissions of county operations have been increasing despite years of similarly meaningless virtue signaling. Finally, there was the claim that climate change is disproportionately hurting poor people.

In my thirty years of serving as a government watchdog, I have never read more false statements in any one board resolution. The truth? America has met the greenhouse reduction goals in the Paris Climate Accord by switching to natural gas from coal via the shale revolution. Moreover, what really hurts California's poor are energy and housing prices that are 50% higher than much of the rest of the country leading to financial hardships. Finally, authentic changes in climate are not measured in terms of mere decades, but centuries and eons, i.e., talk of an existential crisis in terms of a twelve-year period is simply hyperventilating about the weather.

If Moe, Larry and Curly were honestly interested in doing something more than virtue signaling in an echo chamber, their declaration would invoke drastic measures, rather than ego-inflating posturing.

For instance, commuting is the largest local source of greenhouse gases, sans our area's natural oil and gas seeps. Yet, these supervisors will not require their own employees to use public transportation or ride sharing in order to get to work. The Chumash Resort, on the other hand, does make their employees ride a bus to work and guess what? They run a net zero emissions operation. Another suggestion? Move those county offices which don't require interaction with the public to the North County or Ventura in order to eliminate the commute of the employees who live in these areas.



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Finally, why hasn't the board ordered its staff to come up with a plan to immediately abandon the use of fossil fuels in county operations along with asphalt and concrete on our roads, bridges and culverts seeing that these products are greenhouse gas intensive? And, do tell, what will we use instead of these products?

Truly, no politician in CA has demonstrated the ability to control the weather. The threats all these politicians should be dealing with include one trillion dollars in unfunded pension liabilities along with hundreds of billions of dollars in failing infrastructure. That is, these poseurs should deal with our real life fiscal emergency having to do with threats that are within their purview.

Truly, none of these politicians are inclined to do anything drastic despite all their talk about existential crisis. As Victor Davis Hanson writes "all societies in decline fixate on impossible postmodern dreams as a way of disguising their inability to address pre-modern problems" and that leaders who are unwilling or unable to address these problems "compensate by posing as philosopher kings who cheaply lecture on existential challenges over which they have no control."

In conclusion, Daniel Greenfield writes "Environmentalism is a secular religion for a secular age. Bureaucracy is its priesthood and activism is its sainthood. Its form of missionary work and central practice is spreading awareness. These missionary activities invariably require their practitioners to violate the central tenet of living a simpler life."

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What's Worse Than Toxic Masculinity?

By Andy Caldwell

Karen Kataline wrote a fascinating piece in her blog post titled “whiplash in the gender wars”. The whiplash has to do with the progressive left’s ever-changing narrative on whether or not there is a difference between men and women.

Regarding children, not that long ago, the left pushed a narrative to parents that it was okay for young boys to play with girl toys such as dolls and vice versa. The so-called experts deemed it healthy to not pigeon-hole our kids into gender stereotypes. But now, if a young boy expresses interest in dolls and the like, the professionals are encouraging mommy and daddy to sign their little boy up for hormone blockers and reassignment surgery!

Yet, back in the 1970's, in the quest for equality, feminists insisted there was no difference between men and women as they pushed for everyone to be treated the same in the home and at work. Since then, a new narrative has emerged that men and women are different in that traditional masculinity has been deemed toxic.

Treating this toxicity of men begins at an early age. Ryan D'Agostino, in an Esquire article writes: “We are pathologizing boyhood,” says Ned Hallowell, a psychiatrist who has been diagnosed with ADHD himself and has co-written two books about it, “Driven to Distraction” and “Delivered from Distraction”. “God bless the women's movement—we needed it—but what's happened is, particularly in schools where most of the teachers are women, there's been a general girlification of elementary school, where any kind of disruptive behavior is sinful. What I call the 'moral diagnosis' gets made: You're bad. Now go get a doctor and get on medication so you'll be good. And that's a real perversion of what ought to happen. Most boys are naturally more restless than most girls, and I would say that's good. But schools want these little goody-goodies to sit still and do what they're told—these robots—and that's just not who boys are.”

Accordingly, drugs such as Ritalin have been disproportionately prescribed to young boys to treat them for their “disorder”. Worse yet? It is no coincidence that virtually every school shooter is male, and most all of them had been on, or were withdrawing from, even stronger drugs known as psychotropic drugs.

As reported in CCHR's (Citizen's Commission on Human Rights) mental health watchdog report, “A statistical analysis of more than three decades of data shows that in 2011 the United States entered a new period in which mass shootings were occurring more frequently. The annual number of mass-shooting incidents tripled from an average of five per year between 2000 and 2009 to approximately 15 per year since, according to a 2013 U.S. Justice report. In the 1970s, 150,000 American children were taking stimulants for “ADHD.” By 2014, this had reached 4.3 million—a 2,766% increase.”

The report goes on to say “a review of scientific literature published in Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry regarding the “astonishing rate” of mental illness over the past 50 years revealed that it's not “mental illness” causing the problem, but, rather, the psychiatric drugs prescribed to treat it. That is, CCHR International's investigation into school violence reveals that at least 36 school shootings and/or school-related acts of violence have been committed by those taking or withdrawing from psychiatric drugs.”

Dr Warren Farrell, author of “The Boy Crisis” believes the root of the problem with boys in our society today is due to a double void. The void of having a role model and teacher in the form of a father, and a void of purpose having to do with the (now deemed toxic) traditional role and value of men as warriors, leaders, and breadwinners.

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Trump's Most Formidable Enemies

By Andy Caldwell

The stark reality of what this author of 30 books had to say was stunning. Before I tell you about it, let me tell you a little about him. He is a New York Times best-selling author and former advisor to two American Presidents. He has interviewed six American presidents, seven first ladies, nineteen presidential children and twelve presidential siblings. And, as to the subject matter at hand, he spent two years interviewing the Trump family.

Doug Wead, a bonafide historian and former card-carrying member of the GOP establishment has written a fascinating account titled "Inside Trump's White House" that is a must read. He illuminates the truth that Trump is not so much hated as he is feared. This has to do with the threat he presents to big business, foreign interests and the leadership of both the republican and democratic political parties, who decades ago cut themselves in on a deal in order to enrich themselves at the expense of the American people.

What Doug Wead describes, in no uncertain terms, is Trump's life-long burning frustration having to do with our nation's trade deficits and defense arrangements with foreign countries. Trump recognized this situation was bleeding dry the American middle class. Relatedly, there were the crippling regulations that were strangling small businesses here in America who could not afford to offshore their operations in a matter similar to big business. Wead became convinced that Trump is genuinely concerned that our jobs were going elsewhere, our trade deficits were to the benefit of other countries, and that our massive military expenditures were benefitting other countries who could and should help to pay for their own defense.

Well, to everyone's surprise, Trump, the political upstart, got elected and actually proved to be interested in carrying out his campaign promises much to the chagrin and panic of a consortium of interests who risked losing hundreds of billions, if not trillions of dollars, as a result. As Wead explains, "The world of commerce had grown so international and interconnected that most American big banks and companies found a way to benefit from money flowing to other countries. 'America First' would be resisted not only by a long list of nations that were sucking from the teat of the American middle class, but also



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by many of America's corporate giants, many of which were major advertisers and owners of American media. Trump was in for the fight of his life".

Doug Wead confirms the ugly truth that has been hidden from the American people for far too long. For instance, the key relationships of major American companies with China has been driven by insider deals and a vast maze of "legalized corruption". That is, China has been manipulating its currency and robbing us blind of our intellectual property, but this has been considered the price of doing business in the world today!

Domestically, these same companies and the crony capitalist politicians they own promoted a regulatory environment that would serve to choke out domestic small business competition. To that same end, these corporate giants financed special interest groups and think tanks to provide cover and protect the status quo, and truth be told, to this day, the American consumer is none the wiser. They just like getting cheap stuff at the store never realizing the cheap stuff cost their fellow Americans good-paying jobs and our nation the tax revenue that would have otherwise been generated here via the multiplier effect.

In my capacity as a small business advocate, I have discovered that most large corporations have no interest in reducing the cost of doing business in this county and state for the same reasons articulated by Wead.

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Why Meadow Died

By Andy Caldwell

I conducted an interview with Andrew Pollack, whose daughter Meadow was murdered in the Parkland, Florida school shooting. He considers the Parkland shooting the most avoidable mass murder in American history. He contends that if just one person in the Broward County school district had made one responsible decision about the Parkland shooter, all the decedents would still be alive.

Meadow's brother, Hunter, remarked "After my sister Meadow was murdered at Marjory Stoneman High School, the media obsessed for months about the type of rifle the killer used. It was all clickbait and politics, not answers or justice. That wasn't good enough for us". Hence, Andrew and his son have done their own investigation and written a book to memorialize their findings. The title of the book is "Why Meadow Died: The People and Policies That Created The Parkland Shooter and Endanger America's Students".

Here are some of the key take-aways from my interview with Andrew. In the first place, progressive school boards across the country have mainstreamed emotionally disturbed and violent children by categorizing them as "special needs" children. In Meadow's case, that means they kept a psychopath in her school who was so threatening that he was frisked and searched every day upon arrival at the school, and his home had been visited some 40 times by law enforcement, yet no arrests were ever made. In addition to the threat of harming others, the shooter had made several suicide attempts but was never institutionalized.

Why would school districts across the land allow sociopaths and psychopaths to continue to attend classes

in spite of exhibiting continuously threatening and disturbing behavior patterns and actions? Well, chalk it up to progressives in charge! They believe that keeping kids in school who deserve to be suspended, expelled and even arrested, will break the school to prison pipeline. Of course, the opposite is true! What they really did is reverse the flow creating a defacto prison to school pipeline!

How bad did this situation get? The shooter, by way of his obsession with guns and violence, actually started threatening teachers and students when he was still in junior high. But, by way of showing some "positive signs" that he was becoming calmer, when he got to senior high school, they let him practice shooting with the ROTC albeit with the caveat of the daily search and a prohibition of him carrying a backpack.

Meanwhile, President Obama issued a decree from the White House which served to nationalize this untenable and dangerous situation based upon the same lame logic. The Obama directive carried with it the loss of federal funding if teachers and administrators referred too many kids to school resource officers and law enforcement, instead of handling the situations themselves!

The Trump administration has done its best to address this policy of mayhem and carnage, but unfortunately, as Mr. Pollack warns us, too many woke school boards across the country refuse to learn the lesson. In that sense, the school boards are in fact holding the smoking gun.

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The Quest For Political And Social Dominance

By Andy Caldwell

Please pay attention to the woman behind that curtain! Her name is Sarah Miller McCune and she is the force de jure in this community. As a way of background, Sarah Miller McCune was one of the founders of SAGE Publications and she also helped establish the McCune Foundation. On top of all that, she helps to recruit and fund political candidates. Whereas, Ms. McCune can claim credit for some of her philanthropical activities, her political interest in the so-called social justice/equity movement poses a grave threat to the unique American experience of e pluribus unum.

As an example of McCune's work, consider the controversy surrounding the Just Communities programs in our local schools. While promising to promote social equity and justice, the Just Communities program does the exact opposite as it foments division and induces children to consider themselves victims.

In essence, the Santa Barbara school curriculum brought to us courtesy of Just Communities defines racism as "A system of oppression based on race that privileges white people and targets people of color". The definition of oppression sounds eerily familiar: "A system that benefits some groups (often called 'privileged' white groups) and disadvantages other groups (often called target groups people of color)". Well, this spring, the McCune Foundation gave the Just Communities organization \$40,000 a year for two years for its work.

Along these same lines, Sage Publication's subsidiary Corwin Press, run by David McCune, created a similar propoganda and indoctrination program for school instruction that sounds eerily familiar to the Just Communities curricula. The College Fix ran a story on this program called "Deep Equity" which instructs the teachers to explicitly reject and resist parents and other "outsiders" who take issue with the curriculum's content and to align themselves against anyone who objects to the program's claims about race and racism. The Deep Equity program presents a "Dominance Paradigm" which specifically identifies and denigrates males, white people and Christianity as examples of groups who are guilty of domination via the mechanisms of racism and white privilege.

Of particular note to the residents of this community is the fact that Assemblywoman Monique Limon sits on

the board of the McCune Foundation, while Laura Capps, who sits on the board of the Santa Barbara Unified School district, and who is running for first district supervisor, is also a protagonist of McCune. These are just a few of the people in a network of activists and politicians who are working to undermine our cultural heritage including the concept of the melting pot.

The Reverend Martin Luther King is by no doubt the most respected civil rights leader in my time. His goal was to have society judge every person by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. Today's social justice warriors would rather judge white people by the color of their skin while condemning both Christianity and Western Civilization as something to apologize for and distance ourselves from. Nevertheless, truth be told, Martin Luther King was a product of both Christianity and Western Civilization.

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The Most Obtuse Conditions In The World

By Andy Caldwell

On Tuesday, Nov. 26 this paper's headline stated "Cave Fire, Here We Go Again. Thousands evacuated as more than 3,100 acres have burned. Blaze is at zero containment as high winds aid flames in jumping State Route 154". On Wednesday, the headline was "Toughest Conditions Anywhere in the World" followed by "New evacuation warning issued ahead of storm".

The headlines were accompanied by numerous pictures that included fixed wing and helicopter drops, along with numerous firefighters equipped with chainsaws and shovels working to clear brush on a mountain side that would present a challenge to a mountain goat. Of course, in addition to the firefighters, there were heavy equipment operators attempting to create fuel breaks and establish fire lines. And, if and when conditions are right, our firefighters will start back fires to rob the inferno of fuel.

Unfortunately, this has become all too familiar. As Yogi Berra liked to say, "It's de ja vu all over again". Fire alert, evacuation. Flood warning alert, evacuation. Repeat ad nauseam. In the meantime, we send firefighters into harm's way and our flood control district personnel into a panic. Is that really the best we can do?

California has 143 million dead trees waiting to go up in the next inferno. No other state has these problems because no other state has our government.

Here is an idea! Why don't we send the hand crews, the bull dozers and the fire-starters into the brush before our next fire and flood evacuation annual exercise? The end result will be the same, sans the risk of losing lives and property. Maybe, just maybe, we can break the cycle by preventative measures rather than emergency measures? Either that, or we prove the Einstein maxim that the definition of insanity is repeating the same measures over and over again hoping for different results.

I have lived on the Central Coast for 51 years having witnessed numerous fires and floods. However, the frequency and intensity of these otherwise avoidable disasters has increased. Because of climate change? Absolutely not. It is simply because we are no longer doing much of anything to avoid these otherwise avoidable disasters! In fact, just the opposite. We have organizations such as the Los Padres



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Forest Watch and the Environmental Defense Center tag teaming to prevent fuel reduction measures. Not only that, they have also opposed creating and maintaining the debris basins which captures debris and slows the run off.

Why don't we choose preparation rather than evacuation and evacuation? Why live with the threat of wildfires rather than manage fire on our own terms by way of prescribed burns, mechanized clearing, planting orchards to serve as firebreaks, and employing large herds of goats?

With respect to inhibiting flood waters and debris flows, we should also dig the silt out of our local dams and reservoirs, and build more debris basins. Either that, or we need to prepare to haul another 50,000 truckloads of ash, debris and sediment out of this community while we applaud ourselves for being environmentally conscious.

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California's War On Workers

By Steven Greenhut

A gushing article in the liberal publication Vox declared in September that a new California law that outlaws the use of contractors in many industries, is “a victory for workers everywhere.” Assembly Bill 5 was not “just another progressive victory in California” but “a historic moment for the U.S. labor movement too.” The legislation was meant to force companies to instead hire permanent employees who receive benefits.

Fast forward three months and note this paragraph in a Los Angeles Times article about the new law: “New York-based Vox Media said Monday it would end contracts with hundreds of freelance writers and editors in California who covered sports for the blog network NB Nation as the company came into compliance with the law, which could have forced it to reclassify some of these contractors as employees.” What a victory for workers.

“I have tears in my eyes and goosebumps on my limbs,” said a University of California Hastings law professor quoted in that Vox piece. But the Times article quoted devastated Vox employees who feared the impact on their personal budgets as well as on “the most vulnerable in our community.” Their tears were not ones of joy. I’m not sure if the professor still has goosebumps, but law professors aren’t being affected by the new law — although she might want to talk to a few of the people who lost their incomes right before Christmas.

Many journalists championed the new law as it made its way through the state Capitol. Perhaps they are having second thoughts now that they — and not just some faceless delivery people and Uber drivers —

are losing their livelihoods thanks to a measure that was supposedly designed to help them. I love the headline on Elizabeth Nolan Brown’s Reason column this week: “California Freelancers Suffer From Totally Predictable ‘Unintended Consequences’ of Gig Worker Protection Bill.”

Yeah, there was no way to see this one coming. Brown’s point is a good one: “It’s not an ‘unintended consequence’ so much as one that folks who wanted to stick it to Uber and Lyft (or at least get press for pretending to stick it to Uber and Lyft) deemed an acceptable consequence.” Reporters can’t say that no one warned them, but they aren’t used to being part of the acceptable collateral damage inflicted by the state’s Democratic leaders.

Similar efforts could be coming to other states, especially if Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts has her way. “This is a crucial moment in the fight for workers in this country,” she wrote in an August column in the Sacramento Bee. “It’s a time for us to show whose side we’re on. All Democrats need to stand up and say, without hedging, that we support AB 5 and back full employee status for gig workers.” You’ve been warned.

To its credit, the Bee — which is shuttering its Saturday edition and whose parent company could be facing bankruptcy — penned an editorial decrying the legislation as something that could “put local newspapers out of business.”

AB 5 was the response to a 2018 California Supreme Court decision that imposed an “ABC test” on companies that rely on contractor labor. The only way com-

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California's War On Workers *Cont.*

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panies could use contractors is if a) the workers don't take direction from the company, b) they aren't involved in the core work that the company performs, and c) the workers made the affirmative decision to be contractors by setting up an LLC or a separate business entity. Instead of fixing the mess the court made, the union-friendly Legislature codified the ruling.

Basically, the law outlawed the use of contractors except in some narrow instances. Then, the process of horse-trading began and the most influential industries — doctors, lawyers, realtors, insurance agents — secured exemptions. But drivers weren't so fortunate, nor were freelance writers and photographers. In fact, the drivers were the target of the bill, even though the vast majority of these drivers work a small number of hours to boost their income between other jobs and school.

Never mind — California's lawmakers know what's best for the rest of us. We'll see how state officials react when they can no longer grab an Uber or Lyft or have packages delivered to their door.


As the new legislative session gears up, there's virtually no chance that lawmakers will revisit the legislation in any substantive way. Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash are sponsoring an initiative that would exempt drivers from the onerous new rules, and a number of lawsuits — including one from the California Trucking Association — are headed to the federal courts. Writers have a legitimate First Amendment objection, given that the law arbitrarily placed a 35-piece limit on the number of freelance pieces a writer can publish in a single outlet. We'll see how the litigation plays out.

That favorable Vox article made clear what's going on here. It rehashed some recent history of the labor movement, going back to Ronald Reagan's crack-down on striking air-traffic controllers. It notes that the number of "major strikes in the U.S. dropped from an average of 300 each year in the decades before (the strike) to fewer than 30 in recent years." Labor unions have decided to take a stand on gig-economy workers — without contemplating how dramatically the economy has changed since the 1980s. Who really cares if non-union workers lose their livelihoods in the process?

In a piece published Wednesday "explaining" the most significant events of the decade, Vox seemed undaunted by its own hypocrisy: "Now, California's new AB 5 law could force Uber to provide an hourly wage and full employment benefits to its tens of thousands of drivers in the state, potentially threatening not just its business model, but that of the entire gig economy, which, many argue, succeeded for too long at workers' expense."

It is a historic moment indeed, but it's hard to see it as much of a victory for anyone other than union activists who want to quash the competition. It's yet another reminder — if we needed another one — that labor unions don't care about workers, but only about political victories that promote their pet progressive causes.

Steven Greenhut is the Resident Senior Fellow and Western Region Director, of State Affairs at R Street.



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California's Most Memorable Political Moments Of 2019

Cont.

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over,” Caldwell said. “It has to do with the dangers and implications of wildland fires. I characterize these observations by way of the subject line “fires, floods and fools.”

Theft by Executive Order

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an Executive Order authorizing the looting of voter-approved gas tax funding for road repairs and highway expansions to be used to fight “climate change” via the high speed rail he promised to shut down. The Executive Order by the Governor requires state government to “redouble its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change while building a sustainable inclusive economy.”

The most expensive median home price in the U.S.

Solar mandate – California home prices already average more than \$605,000, and effective in 2020, all new construction has a legislative mandate to install solar on every new home and commercial building built, adding significantly more cost to an already hefty price.

The Revolving Door...

Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez authored a bill to keep legislators from becoming lobbyists, but it was killed in committee by lawmakers like Assemblymen Chad Mayes (former Republican, now NPP-Riverside) and Ian Calderon (D-City of Industry), both of whom are most likely going to become lobbyists soon.

Assembly Bill 5

The end of the legislative session each year always brings drama, sub-rosa backroom deals under the cover of darkness, accusations of double-dealing, and surprises. In 2019, the end of session also brought insults, bullying, tears, coercion, and the usual backroom deals. Specifically, Assembly Bill 5 by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) and Assembly Bill 170, a gut-and-amend bill Gonzalez said was forced on her by the Senate to add one more limited exemption into AB 5, if she wanted AB 5 to pass.

AB 5, written by the AFL-CIO, will serve to significantly limit Californians' ability to work as independent contractors and freelancers.

Gonzalez's Twitter feed over the recent weekend showed cracks in the armor. Last week Gonzalez attacked freelancers after media outlet Vox fired 200 of their freelance writers because of AB 5:

“I'm sure some legit freelancers lost substantial income,” she tweeted following Vox's mass firings, “and I empathize with that especially this time of year. But Vox is a vulture.”

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"These were never good jobs," Gonzalez said earlier this month. "No one has ever suggested that, even freelancers."

Some say the day that will live in infamy is when Gov. Newsom signed AB 5. California Globe contributor Edward Ring said, "Sure, the main target was Uber. But Uber will make a deal, one way or another, with these unions. The real victims will be Uber's upstart competitors who can't afford union payscales and union rules at the same time as they try to grow to scale. Ditto for every other affected industry. And never mind the massive collateral damage – killing every independent contractor out there who doesn't want to join a union, or get a 'license.'"

Mandatory Vaccinations

The incredible speed at which the Governor signed Democratic Sen. Richard Pan's mandatory vaccine bills after they were passed out of the legislature took less than an hour. There are now lawsuits against this mandate that removed any religious or medical exemptions on vaccines. And parents say if the State of California enforces the vaccine mandates in order for children to be enrolled in all schools, they will pull their kids out of California schools and even leave the state.

In the 1960's, children received only four vaccines: Smallpox, measles, polio and mumps vaccines. Now, children receive as many as 24 shots by 2 years of age and five shots in a single visit. Most children receive 49 vaccinations by the age of six, and more than 60 vaccinations from day of birth to age 18. Newborns receive eight routine vaccinations in accordance with the Center for Disease Control's vaccine schedule, during the first 15 months of life.

Charter Schools Under Attack

Education scholar Lance Izumi with the Pacific Research Institute said Gov. Newsom's decimating charter school growth by signing AB 1505, "local school boards can deny a charter petition if it finds that the proposed charter 'is demonstrably unlikely to serve the interests of the entire community,' which is a carte-blanc reason to deny any charter petition."

Izumi added, "The AB 1505 compromise will ensure that most such children will never get a chance at a better

education."

Other California Issues

- Some in and around the State Capitol are critical of a special election that resulted in another legislative husband and wife team, this time of Sen. Brian and now-Assemblywoman Megan Dahle.
- Investigative journalist Andy Ngo was beaten up by Antifa at Berkeley, and received traumatic brain injuries. He is now suing the Antifa members who attacked him.
- The plastic straw and tiny shampoo bottle ban was passed during a time when the catastrophic epidemic of criminal vagrancy, drug addiction, mental illness, chronic willful homelessness, and real homelessness, brought on by Prop 47 has mushroomed. Some called this "fiddling while Rome burned."
- The creeping Social Justice-oriented agenda in public school curriculum, and

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the lawsuits parents are bringing about are moving forward.

- The rapid rise and fall of Rep. Katie Hill and the “throuple” affair Hill and her husband allegedly had with a young staffer have led to Hill’s resignation and an election to replace her.

Water, Water, Water

California voters have approved more than \$30 Billion in Water Bonds which has provided no new water storage, and water rationing on the horizon.

California Globe spoke to noted water expert Kristi Diener for an update on this complicated matter:

In water year 2019, which spanned from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019, an amount of water equal to a year’s supply for 275 million people flowed under the Golden Gate Bridge and out to the Pacific Ocean. Rather than acting to build new, major, reservoir storage to capture all we can when Mother Nature brings us bountiful water for free, California continuously obstructs, and has even used the courts to block putting dam shovels in the ground. In fact, lawmakers recently enacted their own expensive and ineffective solution instead.

Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Los Angeles), and Assembly-woman Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), authored two new mandatory water rationing bills. Senate Bill 606, and Assembly Bill 1668, were easily passed along party lines, signed into law, and will gradually keep ratcheting indoor water use down over the next 10 years, until it reaches 50 gallons per person per day. Unlike expanded reservoirs that capture additional new water to meet the current and future water needs of a growing population, Californians will adapt to living water poor. The cost of the new regulatory body, and added level of bureaucracy necessary to enforce these rationing laws, will be passed on to taxpayers. Water rates will continue to rise, and the “use less, pay more” scenario will increase. What’s worse is the actual water savings will be insignificant.

Rapid Fire Highlights on Gov. Newsom’s Strangely ‘Incoherent’ Positions

There are some big questions on policy positions Gov. Newsom appears to have flipped on, or came out of left field:

1. The high-speed rail project – he vowed to kill it in his

first state-of-the-state speech, then flipped on it within the week, allowing one strange segment of the rail to be built in the Central Valley, nicknamed “the conjugal express,” going from prison to prison, Madera to Bakersfield. The goal for the strange and unnecessary rail line was so California would not have to return \$3.5 billion to the federal government.

2. The governor suing Huntington Beach for re-

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California's Most Memorable Political Moments Of 2019

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jecting fake housing goals even though they were building more housing than other cities who pretended to have goals;

3. The wildfire problem which is a result of decades of preservationist policy honed by the radical left environmentalists not some cultish theory of climate change;

4. Homelessness and mental illness and appointing two of the most dubious elected officials to lead his panel: Gov. Newsom named 'Leaders & Statewide Experts' to advise on the homeless crisis... Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas have been so effective in eradicating the homeless in their cities, they will now recommend how to spend the \$1 billion Newsom allotted in the budget to fight homelessness.

5. The many commissions Gov. Newsom has set up to fix every problem under the sun: a new commission to study "the future of work," a single-payer health care commission, Commission of the Californias, and DMV Strike Force are just a few.

6. Every press release with the sentiments of "historic" or "unprecedented," according to Capitol watchers;

7. The phalanx of bodyguards and armed guards with the governor at all times;

8. Leaving the historic Governor's mansion downtown to move into another mansion in a suburban part of town for his family;

9. His vindictive reactions to President Trump, especially when he is frequently asking for more federal funds;

10. The federal defunding of High Speed Rail;

11. The state travel ban list expansion, now up to 11 states, recently adding Iowa to the list based on passage of a law in Iowa that removed gender protections under Medicaid.

2020 looks to be just as interesting in California politics. Happy New Year everyone.

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, and the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses?



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