New American



Inside Track

British Schools to Teach "All Genders" Can Have Menstrual Periods

In the latest triumph of transgenderism, a school district in southern England will begin teaching gradeschoolers that "all genders" can have menstrual periods.

"Trans boys and men and non-binary people may have periods," reads the advice to teachers from a December 3 meeting of the Brighton and Hove City Council. In other words, females who deny their biological sex will nevertheless experience physical symptoms of being female as they mature.

Such sentiments, however, cannot be expressed directly, particularly in bastions of extreme progressivism such as Brighton, so they are couched in the language of transgenderism, and students are then indoctrinated into believing that males can have periods.

And indoctrination it is. The report calls on schools to ensure that "language and learning about periods is inclusive of all genders, cultures, faiths and sexual orientations. For example; 'girls and women and others who have periods.'" Such teaching is to begin at age eight "within a planned program of relationships and sex education," and not just in health class. "There is a cross-curricular approach to learning about periods, particularly in science and [personal, social, and health education] but also in media studies, [physical education], maths, graphics, and textiles."

The council's advice is allegedly aimed at preventing "period poverty," the notion that students miss school because they cannot afford products to help manage their periods. To that end, it instructs schools to provide "period products" to all students who need them and place bins for disposing of used products "in all toilets" for students aged seven or older. "We believe that it's important for all genders to be able to learn and talk about menstruation together.... Our approach recognizes the fact that some people who have periods are trans or non-binary," the council noted.

The entire transgender campaign is about sidelining normal boys and girls in deference to a few who are uncomfortable in their own skin and growing the ranks of transgenders so they can exert even more influence.

Most Federal Spending Occurs Without Congressional Approval: GAO

Given the ferocity with which federal lawmakers battle over the budget, one might think the fate of the entire country hung in the balance. But the truth of the matter, according to a new Government Accountability Office (GAO) report published November 29, is that they are fighting over a very small — and shrinking — portion of federal spending while most of the real budget-busters are on autopilot.

Of the \$3.7 trillion Uncle Sam spent in 2015, the GAO found that \$3.2 trillion of it was spent without explicit congressional authorization. That means Congress voted on just 14 percent of all federal outlays that year.

How did that happen when the Constitution vests the power of the purse in Congress alone? The answer is that Congress has seen fit to take most spending decisions out of its own hands.

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Primarily, it has done so by creating entitlement programs whose budgets are determined by who is eligible to receive benefits and at what levels. These are known as "permanent appropriations." The Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees Medicare, had the largest spending authority and permanent appropriations in 2015: \$979 billion, or about 30 percent of all such spending. The Social Security Administration came in a close second with \$928 billion, or 28 percent. The Treasury Department was next with \$542 billion, or 17 percent, most of which went to pay interest on the national debt. All told, permanently funded programs accounted for \$2.6 trillion, or 70 percent of all spending.

Congress has also ceded its power to federal agencies in other ways, including offsetting collections, contract authority, and borrowing authority, all of which allow agencies to disburse cash without an appropriation.

Representatives and senators need to reclaim spending decisions from unelected bureaucrats as required by the Constitution. Then they need to follow the rest of that document and start slashing away at the countless programs that are driving the United States toward fiscal ruin.

Church in China Under Intense Attack by Communist Government

Communist China is upping its assault on believers and congregations across the nation, particularly those churches that are not properly registered with the government. On December 9, Chinese agents raided the Sunday service at the Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, the capital city of China's Sichuan province, taking more than 100 worshippers into custody. Additionally, reported the *South China Morning Post* on December 13, Wang Yi, pastor of the illegal church, was arrested for supposedly "inciting subversion of state power." If convicted, he could face up to 15 years in prison.

China Aid noted that "inciting subversion of state power" is a catch-all charge the communist government often hands down to Chinese Christians, "since the Communist Party views religion as a threat to their ideological control and, as such, their rule." The organization noted, however, that "China's Christians practice their religion peacefully and never intend to threaten government power."

Before his abduction, Pastor Wang prepared a statement in anticipation of his eventual arrest and imprisonment by the communist government. "As a pastor, my firm belief in the gospel, my teaching, and my rebuking of all evil proceeds from Christ's command in the gospel and from the unfathomable love of that glorious King," wrote Wang. "Every man's life is extremely short, and God fervently commands the church to lead and call any man to repentance who is willing to repent. Christ is eager and willing to forgive all who turn from their sins. This is the goal of all the efforts of the church in China — to testify to the world about our Christ."

He added: "I believe that this Communist regime's persecution against the church is a greatly wicked, unlawful action. As a pastor of a Christian church, I must denounce this wickedness openly and severely. The calling that I have received requires me to use non-violent methods to disobey those human laws that disobey the Bible and God. My Savior Christ also requires me to joyfully bear all costs for disobeying wicked laws."



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The Weekly Standard Ends 23-year Publishing Run

The *Weekly Standard*, a magazine that had been described as a "redoubt of neoconservatism" and as "the neocon bible," published its final issue on December 17, 23 years after being founded by veteran neoconservative William Kristol. Kristol was a supporter of the Never Trump movement and has criticized what he calls the "Trumpified Republican Party."

President Trump pulled no punches in tweeting about the Standard's demise: "The pathetic and dishonest *Weekly Standard*, run by failed prognosticator Bill Kristol (who, like many others, never had a clue), is flat broke and out of business. Too bad. May it rest in peace!"

Though practically all media reports (including the *New York Times, The Hill, CNN*, and the *Washington Post*) described the *Weekly Standard* as "conservative," such descriptions are merely reflections of how the term "conservative" has been corrupted in recent years.

Kristol has deep *neoconservative* roots. His father, Irving Kristol, served as the managing editor of *Commentary* magazine, founded the magazine *The Public Interest*, and has been described as the "godfather of neoconservatism." The term "neoconservatism" leads many to believe that the movement is a modern improvement of traditional, "paleo" conservatism — exemplified by such figures as Robert A. Taft (R-Ohio), who was a senator from 1939 to 1953. However, it has little in common with traditional conservatism.

In a 2001 address, John F. McManus, president emeritus of The John Birch Society, described a neoconservative as an opponent of communism but a supporter of socialism and internationalism.

Irving Kristol's dismissal of "the kind of isolationism that then permeated American conservatism" reflects a key difference between neoconservatives — who favor an *interventionist* U.S. foreign policy — and non-interventionists such as former Representative Ron Paul (R-Texas) and his son Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

For example, the *Standard* promoted and supported the 2003 invasion of Iraq — an extreme case of interventionism. Among the advocates of invading Iraq in the administration of George W. Bush were steadfast neoconservatives Vice President Dick Cheney and then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. Both Cheney and Rice are members of the interventionist, globalist Council on Foreign Relations.



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