



SPOTLIGHT

Fast-Food Fury

By Dale M. Glading

Do you know what happens when you devalue life?

On TV... in movies... in video games.

And mostly by slaughtering 1 million innocent preborn babies every year in America, sacrificing them on the altar of personal convenience and then having the audacity to call it "reproductive health"?

You get Fast-Food Fury.

Example #1: On April 9th, a woman pulled up to the drive-thru window at a Steak 'n Shake in Spanish Lake, a suburb of St. Louis MO. An argument ensued, reportedly over onion rings, leading to the customer throwing a drink at the store employee who was waiting on her. The employee threw the drink back at her, after which the customer proceeded to pull out a gun and fire several shots. One struck an adult man, who was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. A second bullet hit Chauncia Meekins, 32, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Twenty-year-old Jada Bell, who is seen shrugging in her mug shot as if she did nothing wrong, has been charged with six felonies in the case, including first-degree murder and armed criminal action. Mean-

continued on page 4

Socialism Stinks... and Here's Why

By Dale M. Glading

"Socialism of any type leads to a total destruction of the human spirit and to a leveling of mankind into death." - Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Recently, two Democrat officeholders who have promoted and enacted socialist policies addressed the philosophy behind them... and their unfortunate results. One of them, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, has apparently had a slight change of heart whereas New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani doubled down on his socialist positions and rhetoric.

Let's look at Madame Governor first.

During her 2022 campaign, Hochul infamously said the following about her Republican opponent Lee Zeldin, then-Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, and President Donald Trump...

"Trump and Zeldin and Molinaro - just jump on a bus and head down to Florida where you belong. OK? Get out of town. Because you don't represent our values... You're not New Yorkers."

(Her caustic words remind me of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's infamous 2014 radio interview in which he said on-air - and then tried to retract the next day - "Right to life, pro-assault weapons, anti-gay - if that's who they are, they have no place in the state of New York because that's not who New Yorkers are.")

And so, President Trump took Gov.

Hochul's advice and headed south to Mar-a-Lago, his plush resort in Palm Beach, and eventually to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Other millionaires and billionaires followed suit, many of them taking their companies - and high-paying corporate jobs - with them.

Now, the cash-strapped Hochul is singing a much different tune.

During remarks at Politico's "New York Agenda: Albany Summit" event earlier this year, Hochul explained that she needs individuals with a "high net worth to support the generous social programs that we wanna have in our state."

She even suggested that wealthy individuals should visit Palm Beach, Florida, to "see who you can bring back home, because our tax base has been eroded."

Hochul also lamented the fact that "Wall Street businesses are looking at Texas" because of its lower tax rates, claiming that New York is "in competition with other states who have less of a tax burden on their corporations and their individuals."

Geez, do you think?

Billionaire businessman John Catsimatidis responded to Hochul's pitiful plea by dismissing the idea that former New York State residents would return.

"This is a joke, nobody who has gone down to Florida is coming back," the 2013 New York City mayoral candidate said.

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...



Teenage Terrorists and Absentee Parents...Page 3

Socialism Stinks... and Here's Why

continued from page 1

Meanwhile, Mayor Mamdani still hasn't learned his lesson.

On April 28, Mamdani, speaking at a joint press conference with Council Speaker Julie Menin, declared a "budget crisis of a historic magnitude" larger than any "since the Great Recession," blaming inherited mismanagement and a structural imbalance with the state.

"We cannot close this deficit with savings alone. We need new revenue. And we need a structural reset in our relationship with the state. ... That is the only way to meet our legal obligation to pass a balanced budget and to do so without imposing a financial burden onto the backs of working people," he stated.

Did you catch that seemingly innocuous phrase buried in the middle of his announcement? We... need... new... revenue. In other words, NYC's Socialist-in-Chief intends to raise taxes yet again on the city's businesses and most affluent residents - which, if the past is indeed prologue, will send even more of them packing to Florida, Texas, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

Mamdani's ideological stubbornness - and inability to grasp simple economics - reminds me of the Christian high school that our two sons attended. When enrollment started to decline due to soaring tuition, guess what they did? That's right; they raised the tuition even higher for the remaining students to make up for the ones who had left. Of course, that myopic approach resulted in more cash-strapped families pulling their kids out of the school... which led the school to raise tuition costs even higher...

and so, the death spiral continued until the school inevitably closed.

My former home state of New Jersey could learn a lesson or two from that school's shortsightedness, because people are fleeing the Garden State in record numbers for several reasons: liberal politics, congestion, cold weather, and most of all, the crushing tax burden... led by the highest property taxes in the country, twice the national average.

But what do the brain-dead politicians in Trenton do? Raise taxes even higher to make up for the lost revenue which, in turn, drives out more residents.

They made a movie about Hochul and Mamdani in 1994, starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. It was called *Dumb and Dumber*.

Yes, there was a 2014 sequel with the same two actors, but the 2026 version featuring Socialist darling Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan "World War Eleven" Omar is sure to be an even bigger box office hit. For the record, AOC recently claimed that the American Revolution was fought "against the billionaires of their time."

Not against King George III, not because of taxation without representation, and not for independence... at least not according to that great academician, historian, and scholar known as AOC.

Fortunately, Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) set her straight on X...

"No, AOC, the American Revolution was NOT 'against the billionaires of their time.' It was against a large, distant, overly intrusive government that recognized no limits over its own authority to tax, regulate, and eat out the substance of the citizens it claimed to serve."

Let me close with a quote from Garry Kasparov, the Russian chess grandmaster who was the undisputed world champion from 1984 to 1993 and the classical world champion from 1993 to 2000.

"It's always worth noting how people who never lived under socialism adore it while everyone who lived under it hates it."

Editor's Note: Lest we only cite East Coast examples, Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson, a progressive Democrat, recently announced that she was imposing a 10% tax on millionaires in the city. Sounding more like a "Valley Girl" than the chief executive of Washington State's largest city with a population of 780,000 people, Mayor Wilson said, "I think the claims that millionaires are going to leave our state are, like, super overblown. And if, you know, the ones that leave, like, 'Bye,'"

Unaware that higher taxes will cause the wealthy to leave, Mayor Wilson launched a boycott of Starbucks, resulting in the company relocating its corporate headquarters - and 3,000 jobs - to Nashville, Tennessee and former CEO Howard Schultz (and his \$3.6 billion net worth) moving to Miami. Meanwhile, Starbucks announced plans to close five Seattle stores and also laid off 61 high-paid tech workers in their Seattle offices after cutting 900 positions in 2025.

Of course, those moves pale in comparison to the economic (i.e. tax) hit that Seattle took in 2023 when Amazon founder Jeff Bezos packed up his \$272 billion fortune and headed to South Beach. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is reportedly planning to join Schultz and Bezos at what is being called "Billionaires Bunker" in Miami if California goes through with its proposed one-time 5% tax on billionaires.

Teenage Terrorists and Absentee Parents

By Dale M. Glading

Once is too much... and twice is the beginning of a trend.

Back in February, over President's Day Weekend, a flash mob of more than 200 teens rampaged through a mall in the Bronx, frightening shoppers for no other reason than they had nothing better to do. As one teen participant - who apparently skipped more than one grammar class - put it, "We was bored."

Then, just last month, more than 1,000 teens responded to a social influencer's call for a "meet-up" by literally taking over the Icon amusement park in Orlando, terrorizing the rest of the customers that included senior citizens and families with young children, all of whom fled for safety. Nine teenagers, ages 13 to 16, were arrested and two police officers were hospitalized with injuries.

Thanks for nothing, TikTok!

There are several cause-and-effect lessons to be learned from these twin episodes of uncontrolled teenage mayhem. Here they are, in no specific order, and please forgive me for "painting with a broad brush"...

1. Teens today need discipline and a strong moral foundation... and in many cases, they aren't getting either. For the most part, public schools - which kicked God to the curb 60 years ago - have stopped disciplining their students for fear of parental reprisals and costly lawsuits. Meanwhile, far too many churches choose to entertain kids rather than instruct them in sound and unwavering biblical truths. Ap-

parently, teaching about chastity, personal responsibility, and respect for authority doesn't fill your youth group to overflowing... and unfortunately, size is becoming the barometer by which we measure the success of a youth program instead of the level of spiritual growth and maturity of its participants.

2. Teens today crave a sense of purpose... and to a large degree, they are coming up empty because the people and institutions that are supposed to be guiding them through that process are failing them. And so, they are turning to their equally confused peers as well as Hollywood, social media influencers, and other unhealthy trendsetters. Worse yet, their parents are often oblivious to what's going on in their kids' lives - and who and what is shaping their personality, character, and worldview.

3. Speaking of parents, they often fall into one of the following categories: they are either too involved in their own lives, careers, and personal drama to pay attention to their kids OR they turn their children into false idols by becoming helicopter moms and dads, hovering over them 24/7. I really don't know which one is worse: ignoring your kids or making them believe that they are the epicenter of the universe and everyone else should cater to their every whim and fancy. Then, of course, there are the parents who are literally afraid of their kids - not physically, but emotionally - believing that if they discipline Johnny and Sally, that their BFFs won't like them anymore.

Get a grip, parents! Johnny and Sally have lots of friends but only one set of parents, so be their parents. Trust me, there will come a time later in life when they might become your buddies but for now,

act like a grownup... provide guidelines and guardrails... and lower the boom when necessary. In other words, be engaged and not afraid.

Give them a place to come home to - a shelter from the storms of life - and demand that they report back to "headquarters" on a regular basis. Yes, that means curfews... and a loss of privileges for when they break them.

Finally, know who their friends are and don't hesitate to express your disapproval of the ones who you think are a negative influence as long as your reasons are legitimate. Learn to pick your fights and remember that not every hill is worth dying on.

Now that it's getting late, do you know where your kids are? Hopefully at youth group and not rampaging through a local mall or terrorizing an amusement park.

Editor's Note: Recent studies show some encouraging signs of a spiritual revival taking place in America, evidenced by an increase in church attendance. And guess who is "leading the charge"? Young people, particularly young men.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them..." Isaiah 11:6 (NKJV)

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." Acts 2:17 (BSB)

Fast-Food Fury

continued from page 1

while, Meekins' family is calling for the death penalty in the case.

"As a family, as a whole, we will be pushing for the death penalty, not for revenge, but to set an example because we need to stop this type of senseless violence out here; it doesn't make sense," said Anthony Willhite, Chauncia Meekins' cousin.

Example #2: Three women entered a Taco Bell in West Palm Beach FL on April 27th and asked for cups of water. At least one of the women then used the empty cup given to her by D'Mari Jy'Quan Patterson, a 20-year-old employee, to fill it with

soda instead. An argument ensued after which Patterson pulled a gun and fired several shots, hitting one woman and grazing a second. The third woman fled and Patterson followed her outside the restaurant, firing another shot.

The three women managed to drive themselves to the hospital where two of them were treated for minor injuries and released. The third woman was not injured. As for Patterson, when the police responded he told them that he thought the women were armed, but store videos proved otherwise. Patterson was arrested and charged with three counts of aggravated assault with a firearm. He is currently being held pending court proceedings. His bond is set at \$25,000 for each

count of aggravated assault.

Two separate incidents at two different fast-food restaurants in two different cities. One argument over onion rings and a tossed drink, the other over a stolen cup of soda. And yes, one dead young lady and three others with minor gunshot wounds.

Finally, two young people - both 20-years-old - who will spend most of their adult lives behind bars... and deservedly so.

Let me say it again, because of onion rings and soda.

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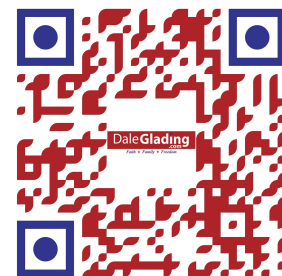
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