

## Standard online reader survey



**Q: Do you think people convicted of child rape should be eligible for the death penalty?**

**YES or NO**

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

### Trade war damage beginning to surface

Donald Trump's trade war has been an abstraction for most Americans so far, but the retaliation has now begun in earnest and the casualties are starting to mount. The President's beloved stock market took another header Monday on news of more restrictions on investment into the U.S., and the Dow Jones Industrial Average is now down for 2018. But the biggest losers Monday were the American workers who make Harley-Davidson motorcycles whose jobs will soon be headed overseas thanks to the Trump tariffs.

Last year Mr. Trump commended Harley-Davidson for "building things in America," calling the company "a true American icon, one of the greats." And he proclaimed last week at a rally in Duluth, Minnesota, "We're bringing back our jobs from other countries." Awkward timing, Mr. President. On Monday the motorcycle company announced it will shift more production out of the United States.

Harley-Davidson considers the EU a "critical market," and last year it sold nearly 40,000 bikes to European consumers. But in retaliation for Mr. Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs, the European Union raised its tax on American-exported Harleys to 31% from 6%, effective last Friday. That amounts to a \$2,200 tax on each motorcycle exported from the U.S. to the EU.

The protectionist pain isn't limited to Harley. Mid-

#### The Wall Street Journal

Continent Nail of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, makes about half of the nails produced in America. But Mexican steel wire is the company's main input, and it's now subject to a 25% tariff. Mid-Continent tried passing that added cost to consumers, but purchases plummeted and buyers cancelled existing orders, opting for cheaper Chinese nails. The company has already cut 60 employees from its workforce of 500, and it will likely soon lay off 200 more.

The list of job casualties will continue to grow. A June report by the economic consulting firm Trade Partnerships Worldwide estimates a net loss of 400,445 jobs over the next three years because of the steel and aluminum tariffs, quotas and retaliation. That's 16 jobs lost for each steel or aluminum job gained.

The damage is likely to have political consequences, as the retaliatory tariffs target industries in swing states. Wisconsin produces more than 90% of America's ginseng, and 95% of that comes from Marathon County.

Mr. Trump is also going to have some explaining to do to Wisconsin cranberry farmers, Florida orange-juice producers, and Iowa soy and corn growers.

Good luck to Republicans running on the Trump tariffs in November.



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### Price of rejecting reality

One of President Trump's most persistent and pernicious lies is that immigrants cause an increase in crime. That's not true. So his whole approach to immigration is rooted in a falsehood, and that makes rational decision-making virtually impossible.

Immigration is only one example of a much larger problem. The president's predilection for embracing "alternative facts" and denying the truth corrupts his judgment on a wide variety of issues, from free trade and economic growth to climate change and relations with Russia.

Rep. Mark Sanford, who was defeated in a Republican primary after he crossed Trump, warned in the *Washington Post*, "We have become so desensitized to the president's tortured relationship with the truth that we don't challenge the inaccurate things he and others say. There should be consequences to making things up. But inexplicably, as a society, we have somehow fallen into collective amnesia that it doesn't matter when the highest officeholder in the land doesn't tell the truth."

One study by the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, examined Texas crime statistics for 2015 and concluded: "There were 56 percent fewer criminal convictions of illegal immigrants than of native-born Americans." For legal immigrants, the crime rate "was about 85 percent below the native-born rate."

A study in the journal *Criminology* published last March asked: "Do places with higher percentages of undocumented immigrants have higher rates of crime?" The answer, reports the *Post*, "is a resounding no."

Linking immigration to crime is only one falsehood Trump uses to justify his hardline policies. Another is that immigrants are bad for the economy, driving down wages and taking jobs away from native-born Americans.

That's not true either. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine reviewed 20 years of data and concluded, "Immigration has an overall positive impact on long-run economic growth in the U.S."

Demographic trends make this finding more valid and vital than ever. The surge of retiring baby boomers — about 10,000 turn 65 every day — comes as U.S. birth rates are plummeting to historic lows.

These two developments place the country's economic safety net in grave danger. The best answer to that threat: more young, hardworking,

tax-paying immigrants — not fewer. And yet this president, with his "tortured relationship with the truth," ignores these facts and follows policies that make the problem worse instead of better. He wants to build a wall across the southern border to keep out these potential taxpayers, while deporting the undocumented workers who are already here.

Trump is convinced that his ferocious anti-immigrant policies are popular with his political base. But looking toward the fall elections, his hardline positions could backfire politically against the GOP. Gallup reports that a "record-high" number of Americans, 75 percent, "view immigration as good thing," while only 19 percent agree with Trump that it's a "bad thing."

Only the voters can make sure Trump and his allies pay a high price for rejecting reality.

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COLUMNISTS  
STEVE & COKIE ROBERTS

### What Chris Pratt was saying

Everyone knows what the angelic nanny Mary Poppins meant when she sang, "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down."

Hollywood superstar Chris Pratt put a different spin on that during the recent MTV Movie and TV Awards. After receiving the Generation Award, he told fans to "listen up" because he was speaking "as your elder." Then he recited what CNN called his "Nine Rules for Living."

It was a strange set of commandments — part potty humor, part youth-pastor sermon. But Rule No. 4 said this: "When giving a dog medicine, put the medicine in a little piece of hamburger and they won't even know they're eating medicine."

That's what Pratt was doing. The megastar of "Guardians of the Galaxy" and the "Jurassic Park" reboots followed the MTV rules and used some mildly off-color humor. That humor was Pratt's "hamburger." What caused a tsunami of internet clicks was his "medicine," speaking as an out-of-the-closet Hollywood Christian.

Rule No. 2 proclaimed: "You have a soul. Be careful with it."

Rule No. 6 was rather personal: "God is real. God loves you. God wants the best for you. Believe that. I do."

Rule No. 8 was just as blunt: "Learn to pray. It's easy, and it's so good for your soul."

In recent years, Pratt has become increasingly open about his faith, even during times of personal turmoil. At last year's Teen Choice

Awards — his first public event after announcing his separation from his wife, actress Anna Faris — he said: "I would not be here with the ease and grace that I have in my heart without my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

At the MTV award show, Pratt concluded with rule No. 9, and some complex faith-based language.

"Nobody is perfect. People will tell you that you are perfect just the way that you are. You are not! You are imperfect. You always will be, but there is a powerful force that

designed you that way," he said. "If you are willing to accept that, you will have grace. And grace is a gift. ... That grace was paid for with somebody else's blood. Do not forget that. Don't take that for granted."

Producers switched from one camera to another after Pratt's reference to "a powerful force that designed you that way." The MTV press office confirmed this program was prerecorded and never aired live. The spokesperson did not respond to a follow-up question about whether Pratt's remarks were edited.

Whatever happened, Pratt's pronouncement was "funny, it was strange and it was moving," said David French, senior writer at *National Review*.

The bottom line is millions of people "really like Chris Pratt," said French. "Christians always love it when a celebrity publicly embraces Christ, and he did it in a particularly striking way."

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ON RELIGION  
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