

Online Journal 2025

by Jim Kenaston

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May Overview:

Here are links to the daily articles I had posted at the top of the page of my blog site during May:

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Also, below are the articles I posted within this journal over the month, one with added highlights*, hoping to help readers save time in getting to the main points. I'm listing them here in alphabetical order while deleting daily journal entries where only the article itself was noted.

- [Antifa's unhinged menacing of Riley Gaines](#), by Jenny Holland
- [Can nuclear save us from the next energy crisis?](#), by Ruari McCallion
- [Pope Leo XIV Drops Papal Supremacy, Urging 'Full Communion' with 'All Christians'](#), by Jules Gomes*
- [Preaching the Gospel to People Sick of Irony](#), by Patrick Miller
- [Principles of New Environmentalism](#), by Edward Ring
- [Tariffs, truth, and strategic survival](#), by Rick McDowell
- [The post-woke world](#), by Andrew Doyle
- [The So-Called Trump-Ramaphosa 'Ambush'](#), by Victor Davis Hanson
- [Trump in Riyadh: A Rejection of the Globalist Gospel](#), by Roger Kimball
- [Trump's Riyadh Speech Heralds The End Of Failed Neocon Foreign Policy](#), by John Daniel Davidson
- [What the Ascension Means](#), by Stephen P. White
- [White Guilt Overdrive: The Episcopal Church Quits Refugee Resettlement Business to Avoid Helping Hunted White South Africans](#), by John Zmirak

Videos:

- [Statement by Tulsi Gabbard](#)

- [What really happened in the U.S.–China trade talks?](#), by Lei's Real Talk

May 1, 2025:

[David Horowitz](#) died a few days ago. He had written (among other books) [Radical Son: A Generational Odyssey](#). For the Baby Boomer generation, Horowitz can be compared to [Whitticker Chambers](#), who wrote [Witness](#) a generation before. Both men offer reflections on the radical Left that are worth our attention.

May 2, 2025:

Some years ago I came across a group dance competition that takes place annually in Southern California. The community that participates in these competitions has grown over time. Most recently the art form has fed into the “Vibrancy” or “Vibe” dance competition. There are too many dance troupes to highlight here, though one that I’ve checked in on from time to time is called *The Company*. I appreciate the work these young people put into developing their skills and the overall choreography. It seems a constructive way for many teens and young adults to channel much of their energy. Here’s *The Company*’s entry for Vibe 2025:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXqGynSrMAg>.

May 3, 2025:

In continuing to share from the collection of my father’s stories and recollections that he recorded, here is how he reflected on his tour of submarine duty when he and my mom were based in [Key West](#).

May 5, 2025:

Over the weekend I started listening through a Sunday school series on church history, and specifically on the first 500 years of it. The speaker is Mark Bertrand, pastor of a local Presbyterian church. I'm finding his observations about the early church to be especially insightful. Here's the site where the series content is available:

<https://www.graceforsiouxfalls.org/the-first-500-years>

May 9, 2025:

For many non-Christians, the Pope is the public face of Christianity. I don't happen to be Roman Catholic, though I pray that the Lord will use this new Pope for good in the world, and certainly toward helping to advance Christ's kingdom on earth in the hearts of lives of new followers.

Interestingly, as I've continued through [this series](#) on the first 500 years of Church history, yesterday I happened to listen to this episode on "[Leo the Great & Papal Supremacy](#)." [Notes] Leo lived from AD c. 390 to 461, serving as Pope from August of 440 until his death in November of 461. He was an early and strong proponent of the idea that the Bishop of Rome should reign supreme over the Church as a whole.

Significantly, Leo the Great drew heavily on the writings of Augustine. I imagine Cardinal Robert Prevost chose the name Leo XIV because he comes from the [Augustinian religious order](#).

Here is a Catholic writer's perspective on this: [Preparing Ourselves for Life Under the New Pope](#), by David G Bonagura, Jr.

May 10, 2025:

My dad had especially fond memories of growing up in south central Idaho. In his later years he would make a trip back to the area as often as he could, typically revisiting his high school classmates (he was president of his high school class), and also various sites in Shoshone and the surrounding area. Here is a brief write-up of his on [Mining in Southern Idaho](#).

May 16, 2025

As we've watched President Trump do well with his Middle East economic diplomacy tour, I can't help but think of how neocons and other beneficiaries of the military industrial complex must be chafing at his apparent success. In their honor, this 1993 book comes to mind: [Give War a Chance: Eyewitness Accounts of Mankind's Struggle Against Tyranny, Injustice and Alcohol-Free Beer](#), by P.J. O'Rourke.

On another topic, I appreciate this reflection I came across this morning: [Christ and Confucius: Remarkably Compatible](#), by Lawrence Reed. My understanding of Chinese history is that while the ancient culture had not received the Ten Commandments, in practice the people of China have more closely followed its tenants than we in the West have over time. Interestingly, adherence to social norms in China has traditionally been based on shaming people into compliance, whereas in the West our cultures have relied upon an internalized sense of guilt (in light of a recognition of having broken one or more of the Ten Commandments). The Bible tells us that God will write the Commandments on our hearts, which is what redemption in Christ is all about.

For the sake of anyone living in a shame-based culture today, one hopes that this external means of social control can be replaced by the new heart one can have in Christ.

May 17, 2025:

Here is one of my dad's reflections on a high school teacher and coach of his, and about an injury he sustained in his freshman year of playing football: [Mr. Bugg](#). This was probably written soon after my grandmother Kenaston had passed away in 1986.

And in the news..., I think James Comey's use of "86" slang is just another form of Henry II's more explicit question, "Who will rid me of this priest?," which quickly resulted in the murder of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket.

It's quite dangerous when people in authority speak loosely within the hearing of impressionable operatives. Like Comey, Henry denied the intent, but Henry ultimately repented, knowing the practical outcome of his statement.

May 21, 2025:

Last night I joined a small group from the church I attend for dinner. A few of the women who were present brought up the slow pace of some wedding entrances they've experienced. The discussion brought to mind for me [this rather unusual wedding entrance](#) that caught a lot of people's attention on

YouTube back in 2009. It's certainly a fun video. Here's a follow-up story on the couple ten years into their marriage: [10 years after viral video, St. Paul's 'JK wedding' couple still dancing](#).

It seems they've done well together. I'm glad to see that they turned their sudden moment of fame toward supporting a good cause.

May 22, 2025:

Having worked as an international student advisor for most of my career, this strikes me as being especially big news: [Trump Admin Revokes Harvard's Authorization To Enroll International Students](#), by Crimson staff writers Samuel A. Church, Dhruv T. Patel, Cam N. Srivastava, and Grace E. Yoon.

It should be no surprise that the Trump Administration is willing to play "hardball" here, as they've clearly intended to make an example of higher learning institutions that have chosen not to comply with their demands relative to anti-Israeli protests, among other matters. Columbia University is in the cross-hairs as well.

I hope Harvard will quickly comply, as non-compliance leaves their international student population in an especially bad situation. Most of the individuals involved are otherwise innocent bystanders who are caught in the middle. I'd honestly hate to be in the position of having to facilitate all those transfers as my final duty before having to look for another job, though my guess is that the school will decide to comply in order to salvage what they can of this difficult situation.

May 23, 2025:

Here's more on yesterday's news from Harvard, this reporting coming from *The Stream*:

Universities love foreign students, who usually pay full freight instead of getting pricey financial aid. Harvard particularly loves non-Americans because the school itself is *un-American* — leading the way for other elite universities whose loyalties lie with globalism, multiculturalism, and oligarchy. The Trump administration has been

targeting Harvard for violating the Civil Rights Act of 1965 with its flagrantly discriminatory DEI initiatives, and has stripped the school of lucrative federal contracts. Now the administration is going after another of Harvard's piggy banks: its trade in international students.

May 24, 2025:

Here are some of my dad's reflections on "[My First Jobs](#)."

May 26, 2025:

I had first posted this in 2021, but I like to revisit it as Memorial Day comes around each year: [Reflections on the First Memorial Day](#).

Here are also some notes on others within our extended family for whom Memorial Day is a special day of remembrance:

- Civil War
 - [Pvt. John H. Kenaston](#)
 - [Corporal Almon M. Wilber](#)
 - [Pvt. David Kenaston Pierce](#)
 - [Lt. Herbert Kenaston](#)
 - [Pvt. Albion M. Kenaston](#)
- World War II
 - [Lt. William Marion Andrew, Jr.](#)

May 28, 2025:

The youngest daughter of a friend of mine is graduating from Harvard University today. Here's the latest I've seen on Harvard's controversies of late (from *The Stream*):

"...the Trump administration has declared war on Harvard — pulling federal contracts, banishing its foreign students, and threatening to tax its massive (\$53.2 billion) endowment. Predictably, pearl-clutching followed about Trump's attack on "academic freedom." But Trump's move is both politically smart — aimed at unsympathetic elites — and morally principled.

Harvard has led the charge in moving American academia into the fever swamps of radical leftist activism, up to and including defending Hamas's

terrorism. The university defies court rulings and the Civil Rights Act through its aggressive affirmative action and DEI programs. Harvard alum and hedge fund billionaire Bill Ackman detailed his support for Trump's moves in a long, detailed post on X, calling on Harvard's board to comply with the administration's orders or resign. Ackman's thumbnail explanation of why DEI is evil is particularly worth reading:

DEI as implemented at Harvard is a political advocacy movement that advocates and executes on behalf of certain groups that are deemed oppressed under the DEI methodology. Under DEI, one's degree of oppression is determined based upon where one resides on a so-called intersectional pyramid of oppression where whites, Jews, and Asians are deemed oppressors, and a subset of people of color, LGBTQ people, and/or women are deemed to be oppressed....

As a result, according to DEI, capitalism is racist, Advanced Placement exams are racist, IQ tests are racist, corporations are racist, or in other words, any merit-based program, system, or organization which has or generates outcomes for different races that are at variance with the proportion these races represent in the population at large is by definition racist under DEI's ideology. But rather than being anti-racist, DEI and its ideological framework are profoundly racist and illegal, and an important contributor to what has gone wrong at Harvard in recent years.

DEI has poisoned Harvard admissions practices as evidenced by Harvard being found in violation of race-based admission practices by the Supreme Court. It has led to the decline of excellence and meritocracy at Harvard, both in the student body and in the faculty. It has allowed antisemitism to explode on campus where chants for "Free, free Palestine, from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," and "Globalize the intifada" were dismissed as viewpoint diversity and free speech "depending on the context" by the previous Harvard president despite repeated warnings that such calls for global violence would lead to innocents being harmed.

Will Harvard cave and admit that it is in fact subject to American law? Not if the school's legal strategy is any indicator. Instead of searching for ways to actually try to comply with federal laws, Harvard launched a barrage of

vindictive personal lawsuits against members of the Trump team, as Ackman recounts:

Harvard has chosen ... to personally sue Secy of HHS RFK, Jr, AG Pamela Bondi, Secy of Education Linda McMahon, Acting Administrator of the GAO Stephen Ehikian, Secy of Energy Chris Wright, Defense Secy Peter Hegseth, Secy of DHS Kristy Noem, Director Todd Lyons of ICE, Secy of State Marco Rubio, and the Directors of the NSF and NASA. When one brings a lawsuit against an individual when litigation against an entity would legally suffice, it is done to intimidate, harass, and/or waste the time of the target. Harvard had no legal need to bring personal lawsuits against these public servants, but it did so anyway out of spite.

How many voters will shed a tear if Harvard has to sell off a few of its buildings? On the other hand, federal judges care very deeply what Harvard thinks of them, so expect more lawless injunctions on that school's behalf."

May 31, 2025:

Here's a reflection my dad shared with us from a "fork in the road" experience during the early years of his Naval career: [My Interview with Admiral Rickover](#).

[[April](#) - [June](#)]