

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

CONSERVATIVE SITES BLACKLISTED UNDER GUISE OF FIGHTING MISINFORMATION

The following is excerpted from “Investigative Journalist,” *The European Conservative*, Feb. 15, 2023: “Disinformation-tracking groups ‘are part of a stealth operation blacklisting and trying to defund conservative media,’ writes investigative journalist Gabe Kaminsky for the *Washington Examiner*. According to his report published on Thursday, February 9th,

these supposedly non-partisan organizations are feeding blacklists of right-wing websites--and other news media--to major ad companies with the aim of ‘defunding disfavored speech,’ as leaked documentation shows. The story is simple: brands that want to advertise their products online turn to giant ad companies. These ad companies want to avoid advertising on sites with questionable reputations for fear of their clients being canceled, so in turn, they contract ‘disinformation trackers’ to obtain private information about potentially dangerous websites ‘they should purportedly

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defund.’ One of the groups behind this is the Global Disinformation Index (GDI), whose mission is to ‘remove the financial incentive’ to create ‘disinformation.’ The organization compiles a secretive ‘dynamic exclusion list’ of news outlets it deems to have a high risk of spreading disinformation, a list intended to severely impact the outlets’ advertising revenue. Just as a

side note, George Soros’ Open Society Foundation and the U.S. State Department-backed National Endowment for Democracy are both listed among the founders of GDI. Among the ten outlets on GDI’s ‘riskiest’ list are *The American Conservative*, *The Spectator*, *Real Clear Politics*, *The Federalist*, *The Daily Wire*, and *The New York Post*--all of which skew to the Right. Some ad companies, such as Xandr, have adopted GDI’s exclusion list to punish content they deem ‘morally reprehensible or patently offensive’ or that ‘could include false or misleading information.’”

THE TERRIBLE SOCIAL EFFECT OF DRINKING



“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22). That is a far-reaching exhortation. Alcoholic beverages are a great evil and curse in modern society. Consider the automobile wrecks, the ruined health and early graves, the suicides, the adulteries, the lewdness, the divorces, the neglected children, the abused wives, the sexual abuse, the waste of money, the gambling, the blasphemy, the pure foolishness. Look at the beer and liquor ads, how they invariably flaunt sensuality and irresponsibility. In January 2005, the Royal College of Physicians in England warned that Britain is suffering from an epidemic of alcohol-related problems that is

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THE TERRIBLE SOCIAL EFFECT OF DRINKING

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fueling violence and illness throughout the country (*The Telegraph*, Jan. 3, 2005). The same epidemic is raging throughout the world. According to an April 2010 report, vodka consumption in Russia is an epidemic. The average Russian drinks from 15 to 18 liters of hard liquor annually, which reduces the average life expectancy by a decade. For Russian men, the life expectancy is just 61.8 years. In 2014, the World Health Organization reported that 3.3 million people die each year because of alcohol. That's more than die of AIDS, tuberculosis, and violence combined. "Including drunk driving, alcohol-induced violence and abuse, and a multitude of diseases and disorders, alcohol causes one in 20 deaths globally every year." That's one death every 10 seconds. Another study found that alcohol use is responsible for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults. That adds up to 88,000 deaths between 2006 and 2010, and the lives of those who died were shortened by about 30 years ("Drinking behind 1 in 10 deaths of working-age adults," *USA Today*, June 26, 2014). If anything has the appearance of evil today, it is alcoholic beverages, and the Bible does not *suggest* that we abstain from all appearance of evil, it *commands* us to do so! For more about this subject, see "Christian Drinking Is a Bellwether Issue,"

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/christian_drinking_is_a_bellwether_issue.php

ISRAELI SCIENTISTS TEACHING BACTERIA TO PRESERVE FOOD



Guy Sivan and Shada Shorwahne, scientists of the Bountica team, at their lab in Kiryat Shemona. Courtesy

The following is excerpted from "Israeli Scientists," NoCamels.com, Oct. 16, 2022: "Scientists are using drug development techniques to create a healthy alternative to chemical food preservatives. They 'educate' bacteria to create proteins that can preserve food safely without any of the health concerns associated with the benzoates, sorbates, propionates, nitrites, and other chemicals we see listed on food labels. 'What we're trying to do is maintain our functioning food supply chain while providing healthy alternatives to food preservatives,' Fabian Trumper, co-founder and CEO of Israeli food tech

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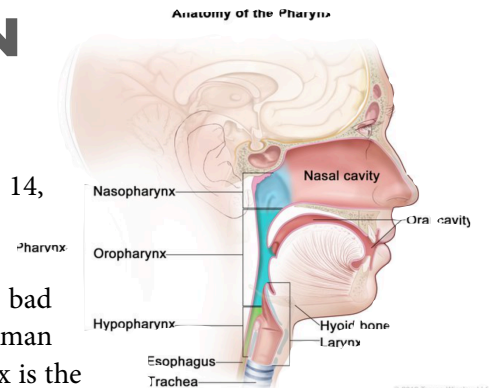
startup Bountica, tells NoCamels. Food manufacturers around the world use synthetic antibacterial agents to destroy bacteria or prevent mold growth. Bountica does the same thing by fermenting organic matter into a tasteless powder or liquid that is added to food in tiny amounts. ... The process is normally used to develop new drugs, and has never before been used for food. 'Just a handful of companies in the world are using this process for products that are not for pharma, and we are one of them' ... He says the proteins they create are fully digestible and safe to consume, unlike synthetic alternatives, and he hopes to achieve the regulatory approvals they need soon, so they can start selling to manufacturers. ... All the fungi that spoil food share the same metabolic pathway--a series of connected chemical reactions that feed one another. Bountica targets a very specific protein function, disrupting its functionality, and inhibiting the growth of all fungi. In other words, it actually stops the development of the cell structure of yeast and other contaminants. 'It's like throwing a wrench in a sequence of moving cogs,' says Trumper."

CANADA AND THE EUTHANASIA SLIPPERY SLOPE

The following is excerpted from "As Canada expands its euthanasia program," *Israel365 News*, Nov. 13, 2022: "Canada's voluntary euthanasia program called Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) became legal in 2016. The program is part of Canada's healthcare system. To receive euthanasia, patients experiencing intolerable suffering must sign a written request expressing their wish to end their life. **In 2021, more than 10,000 people chose euthanasia, an increase of over 32% from the previous year, accounting for 3.3% of all deaths in Canada.** According to the latest report on Medical Assistance in Dying from Health Canada, 17.3% of people also cited 'isolation or loneliness' as a reason for wanting to die. In 35.7% of cases, patients believed that they were a 'burden on family, friends or caregivers.' The law has been amended to make the program available to people whose death is not medically foreseeable. It was also amended to include those with dementia who may not be able to understand the implications of their decision. The decision to access medically assisted suicide will also be for people whose only medical ailment is a mental issue. This amendment will go into effect next year. ... Though the Canadian program is described as 'Dying With Dignity,' the government has a financial interest in promoting medically assisted suicide. According to a study published in the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association*, doctor-assisted death could lower annual healthcare spending across the nation by between \$34.7 million and \$136.8 million."



THE SUPPOSED BAD DESIGN OF THE HUMAN PHARYNX



The following is excerpted from *Evolution News & Science Today*, Dec. 14, 2022: “In our book, *Your Designed Body* [Howard Glicksman and Steve Laufmann], we apply a five-part test for evaluating ostensible instances of bad design. This test can help determine whether we’re looking at a bad design, or simply a bad argument. Let’s consider the example of the human pharynx. Is it poorly engineered? The figure below shows that the pharynx is the common entry for both the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts. Whatever is ingested can potentially go down the airway and cause obstruction, which can result in death by choking. Some insist that the pharynx is therefore miserably designed, something no wise designer would engineer, but that evolution, with its trial-and-error messiness, very well might [e.g., Nathan Kentws and Abby Hafer]. ... These arguments are riddled with problems. To see why, we need to take a closer look at the human pharynx. In addition to the structures identified in the figure above, fifty different pairs of muscles, connected by six different nerves, are needed to swallow. After food in the mouth has been formed into a small ball (bolus), the tongue voluntarily moves it to the pharynx, which automatically triggers the involuntary swallow reflex. As the bolus enters, the pharynx sends sensory information to the swallow center in the brainstem, which immediately turns off respiration so that air is not breathed in during swallowing. This prevents the lungs from drawing food into the airway. The brainstem also sends precisely ordered signals telling the various muscles to contract and move the bolus downward into the esophagus, bypassing the airway. This takes about a second. As swallowing begins, several muscles contract to move the bolus into the pharynx, while moving the back of the palate and the upper pharynx close together to close off the path to the nose. Next comes the tricky part. The bolus has been blocked from going up into the nose, and muscular contraction is hurtling it down towards the airway and the esophagus. Three separate actions take place to protect the airway. First, muscles contract to close the larynx, which is the gateway to the lungs. Second, other muscles move the larynx up and forward (which you can feel in the front of your neck while swallowing) to hide it under the floor of the mouth and the base of the tongue while being protected by the epiglottis. Third, this action, combined with other muscular activity, opens the upper esophagus to allow the bolus to enter. The timing and coordination are remarkable. ... While critics seem to miss the amazing design of this system, it should give the reader pause. Somehow, swallowing happens, usually without incident, a thousand times a day. Where did the information come from that specifies the size, shape, position, and range of movement of the pharynx, each of its nearby structures, and the fifty pairs of muscles involved in swallowing? How could such a system come about gradually, by accident?”

INFORMATION

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