

The life of Charlie Gard

Eleven-month-old Charlie Gard is desperately ill with a rare genetic disorder. He can't breathe or move on his own. He's blind and deaf. He suffers from epileptic seizures. Doctors in London say his illness can't be treated effectively and that he likely will die soon after life-support is withdrawn.

Charlie's parents, Connie Yates and Chris Gard, are fighting to bring their son to the U.S. for experimental treatment. They've raised \$1.7 million on a crowdfunding website to do so.

But Charlie's doctors, and the British courts, won't let him go. Medical authorities argue that prolonging his life by keeping him on a ventilator could cause him pain. British authorities won't even let the parents take him home to die.

The case has drawn global attention. President Donald Trump has tweeted his support for Charlie, saying "if we can help ... we would be delighted to do so." A Vatican spokesman says Pope Francis also has followed the case, praying that the parents' desire "to accompany and care for their own child to the end is not ignored."

You may find the British authorities outrageously heartless or merely humane in gauging that Charlie's chances for survival, much less a productive life, are vanishingly slim.

Either way you may ask: Why does the British government have such wide authority over Charlie's treatment? One big reason: Because the government funds a single-payer health system, picking up medical costs for British citizens.

We imagine many Americans reassure themselves that this country's largely private system of health insurance would never be so dismissive of a parent's right to make decisions about a child's health care. Or deny a parent the right to take a child home to die.

But this medical drama, no matter anyone's opinion, foreshadows the difficult decisions to come if America converts its medical insurance system into a single-payer model. (Note that "single-payer" is a euphemism for government-controlled health spending and care.)

The prospect of single-payer here isn't far-fetched: Medicare and Medicaid already account for about 38 percent of U.S. health care spending. Democratic politicians have floated the notion of lowering the Medicare eligibility age from 65 to 55, or of a broader Medicare-for-all. Before Obamacare became law in 2010, there also was talk of a so-called public option — a government-run plan — to compete with private plans on market exchanges. That was widely seen as a Trojan horse for single-payer.

Now that Obamacare is faltering, talk of a single-payer national plan has surfaced anew in Democratic circles, notably California. In June, the Democrat-controlled state Senate passed a preliminary plan that would have covered all California residents, with no out-of-pocket costs, for an estimated \$400 billion annually. That proposal evidently has died. For now.

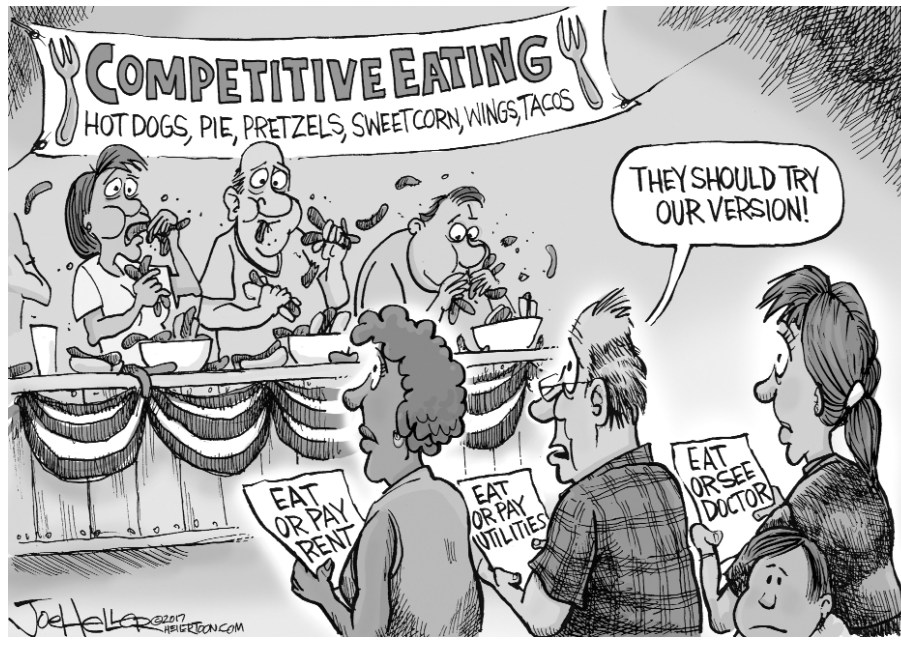
On a national scale, single-payer would more than triple government health care spending, by \$32 trillion over a decade, the Urban Institute estimates.

Single-payer advocates say such a system would be more cost-efficient. To the extent that's true, it's partly because single-payer systems often deny expensive, experimental treatments and drugs, forcing patients to pay out of pocket. Or patients endure long waits for common surgeries. Or patients can't get those pricey, modern treatments.

Many citizens of Canada, the U.K. and some other single-payer countries reluctantly have grown accustomed to such limits. But imagine the political backlash if American lawmakers imposed them here. Bottom line: Single-payer is no panacea. Free treatment isn't free. Somebody — everybody — pays. To which proponents of single-payer would retort: Private insurers aren't models of generosity: Sometimes they pay for costly new treatments, sometimes they don't.

Chris Gard and Connie Yates probably never thought they'd be in this predicament, arguing with the British government about whether they could take a child home to die. Nor could anyone predict that a critically ill infant far from U.S. shores would provide one more reason for Americans to remain wary of a single-payer system.

— Chicago Tribune (TNS)



Immigrant of the week: Henry Bello (Obotetukudo)

Nigerian national behind hospital shooting has checkered past

Last Friday, Nigerian immigrant Henry Williams Obotetukudo, aka Henry Bello, opened fire with an AM-15 rifle at the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, killing one doctor and injuring a half-dozen others. I would prefer to leap right in and offer my ideas for stopping these immigrant shooting rampages, but first I'll have to tell you the facts the media won't.

The New York Times, still unaware there's an internet, is trying to pass off the Nigerian as a Californian, the non-doctor as a doctor, and Mr. Obotetukudo as "Dr. Bello."

In the Times' major biographical profile of Bello the next day, he was described as a "sharp dresser from California." The only other reference to the shooter's provenance came several paragraphs later: "Dr. Bello lived in California off and on from 1991 until 2006."

ABC News had reported on the day of the shooting that Bello was a "Nigerian national" — so the cat was already out of the bag, New York Times. Local New York station PIX11 also reported that he was a Nigerian. Even newspapers in Ohio knew that Bello was a Nigerian.

But as we go to print, the Times still has not identified Bello as a Nigerian immigrant. It issued a "correction," but only to clarify the exact street of a homeless shelter where Bello had lived. No correction to the "California" bit.

Sadly, the Times didn't allow any comments to the online version of its story, but CBS did. There were four comments, two about the incident ("rot in hell") and two about CBS's report: "Where was Bello born?"

and: "Where is he from? Where did he receive his medical degree? Worthless reporting."

You're not fooling anyone, media. Having misled readers about Bello's nationality, the Times professed utter bafflement about the shooter's motive, saying it was "marked with as many questions as answers."

If the Times simply reported facts, instead of strategically constructing news stories to protect favored groups, it might have noticed that there have been a LOT of mass shootings by certain types of immigrants.

There are mental illness shootings, gangland shootings, still-angry-about-the-divorce shootings and so on. Some immigrant murderers are mentally ill or criminals — thanks to our excellent and extremely rigorous vetting system! But there are enough like Mr. Obotetukudo to qualify as their own category: the Disappointed Immigrant mass shootings.

The usual elements are: 1) immigrants from wildly different cultures, who have 2) unrealistic expectations about what their lives should be like in the U.S., combined with 3) an inability to achieve success in the U.S., and 4) a failure to grasp our customs — often, even our language, typically marked by 5) a particular rage at women.

The same way girls from the Midwest come to New York City expecting to live like Carrie Bradshaw in "Sex and the City" (she was paying \$700 a month for a \$2,700 per month apartment, plus \$40,000 on shoes), some immigrants seem to expect their lives in the U.S. to be like something out of "Dynasty."

Bello, for example, declared bankruptcy in 2000 — from one of the priciest towns in the world, Santa Barbara, California. And he just kept failing. He was fired from the Bronx hospital. He lost his license as a "pharmacy technician." (He was not a "doctor," despite the media's insistent reference to him as one.)

The Nigerian couldn't even pull off being a fake doctor, sounding more like a character out of a comedy sketch. Co-workers described him as "very aggressive, talking loudly, threatening people." Once he was arrested for fare-



ANN COULTER

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jumping — just like your trusted family physician. Recently, he'd been living in a homeless shelter.

His Third World approach to meeting women resulted in his being arrested in 2004 for lifting a 23-year-old woman off the ground in Greenwich Village, while trying to penetrate her through her underwear and saying "You're coming with me." Although initially charged with felony assault, he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor — otherwise he might have been deported and America's beautiful mosaic would be diminished.

Apart from the turnstile jumping, all of Bello's arrests involve similarly rom-com, meet-cute scenarios. In 2003, he was arrested for kicking in an ex-girlfriend's door at 5:10 in the morning. In 2009, he was charged, in separate incidents, with harassing women by trying to look up their skirts.

All this insanely inappropriate behavior would have continued ad infinitum, with American women being sacrificed on the altar of multiculturalism, but, finally, the Unstoppable Force of Diversity met the Feminist Immovable Object: He was fired from the hospital for sexual harassment.

In his revenge shooting, he killed one doctor: a woman.

Bello blamed his firing on "racism and discrimination," so at least he was capable of assimilating to the American custom of immigrants being constantly aggrieved.

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One will find similar elements in the many, many immigrant mass murders — Jiverly Wong (American Civic Association, Binghamton, N.Y.); Nigerian immigrant Peter Odighizuwa, (Appalachian School of Law); Palestinian immigrant Ali Hassan Abu Kamal (Empire State Building), Bosnian immigrant Sulejman Talovic (Trolley Square Mall, Salt Lake City); Hmong immigrant Chai Soua Vang (hunters in Wisconsin); Mexican immigrant Salvador Tapia (Windy City Core Supply); Korean immigrant Seung-Hui Cho (Virginia Poly Tech) and on and on.

Liberals have a mystical idea that we can pluck people from the most discordant cultures, put them in middle-class houses in the suburbs and then, magically, primitive tribesmen will be imbued with the core beliefs of our republic and civilization, developed over centuries.

Instead, we have Aztecs getting loaded up on Tecate and hopping behind the wheels of cars; Nigerians demanding to be called "doctor" while picking up women on the street and trying to drag them home; and Hmong responding to the concept of private property by wiping out a pack of Wisconsin hunters.

The New York Times might even help their Muslim friends by reporting the truth! Perhaps some Muslim mass murders — Fort Hood, the Boston Marathon and the Orlando nightclub, for example — aren't problems of Islam, at all. Maybe the problem is assimilation.

It would be a major step forward if the media would just stop lying to us. Until then, Times reporters can still be issued badges, but they shouldn't be press badges.

(Ann Coulter is an author, political analyst and attorney. Her syndicated column runs Fridays in The Freeman.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Residents' comments, interests matter in water pipeline planning

To the editor:
After reading the article "New Berlin residents worried about pipeline's impact on private properties" on June 30 and some of the comments in the "Sound Off," I am compelled to write to ensure residents understand the importance of their comments.

The June Great Water Alliance open houses in Franklin, Muskego, and New Berlin are just one way we are reaching out to residents to ensure they are kept up to date on the project and have ample opportunity to have one-on-one discussions about this historical project with me and the program engineering partners.

It was a pleasure to meet dozens of residents and have in-depth discussions regarding this much-needed project creating a sustainable and safe drinking water source for the city of Waukesha. Residents asked questions, examined maps of the three alternative routes, signed up to receive our online informative newsletter, and provided written and verbal comments regarding the return flow routing.

By fall the return flow route will be solidified taking into account all of the comments we received; it will be comprised of one of the three alternative routes or some combination of the three. Throughout the construction of pipelines carrying water to the city of Waukesha, then returning the same amount to Lake Michigan, we are committed to keeping the public informed. Please use Greatwateralliance.com to learn more and to keep updated on the Great Water Alliance progress.

Daniel Duchniak
Waukesha Water Utility General Manager
Waukesha

Keep Sendik's opening in perspective

To the editor:
An open letter to Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly and Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch: I am writing today after watching video of the speeches that you both made at the grand opening of Sendik's Foods at Meadowbrook Marketplace. I am the former operator of SENTRY Foods at that location. Our store closed there in October of 2016. Our landlord chose not to renew our lease, which we tried very hard to negotiate. The landlord made his choice and I accept that. I am not happy about how we were treated or how we lost the lease on the store. I do not blame any of this on Sendik's for seizing the opportunity.

We currently operate our other SENTRY store at the corner of Sunset and St. Paul Avenue. Bob & Kurt's is also a family-owned business that has operated in Waukesha for 16 years and SENTRY Foods has operated in Waukesha for over 40 years. I have spent my whole career of working for SENTRY Foods, which was actually based in Waukesha at the old Godfrey Company on Sunset Drive. The majority of my employees live in Waukesha.

The falsehood that most local politicians love to talk about is that new retail grocery stores create new jobs. They do not. Most people do not eat more food because a new store comes to the area. They may change where they buy food but not buy more. The result is for every new job created is a job lost down the street.

I actually want to correct some things I heard from the video of grand opening of Sendik's.

Mayor Reilly spoke of how hard he tried to get Sendik's store into the city. He spoke of how special Sendik's is. We operated that store for 16 years and I am not sure if the mayor ever shopped there but I like to think we operate a very good store, too. I actually believe that the city already had some very good stores that have contributed jobs and supported many organizations for years — just like we have. He spoke of how hard the aldermen, administrators, and Plan Commission worked to make this happen. I hope they work this hard for any business that wants to move to the city or already operates in the city.

I understand how people get caught up in the moment of making a speech at an event but I truly believe that they shouldn't lose track of the facts.

Bob Fleming
Bob & Kurt's SENTRY
Waukesha

Amendment would harm state craft breweries

To the editor:
Crony capitalism is threatening to hinder or downright end the livelihood of craft brewers, wineries and distillers in Wisconsin and reduce the choices of Wisconsin beer, wine and spirits you have available to purchase.

The combination of big-moneyed special interests and government doesn't often result in good for individuals and in this case, they want to slide one by you. The three-tier system, a holdover from the days after Prohibition, creates a system under which alcohol manufacturers have to sell to the wholesalers and distributors, who in turn sell to the retailers that sell the product to you. Many of the craft brewers, wineries and distilleries sell their product on their own premises and without that ability to directly sell their products in this way, they may have to go out of business. The proposed change would take away their ability to sell their products on their own premises which would result in them having to sell their products to a distributor, which would result in taprooms and tasting rooms closing and quite possibly the cessation of production altogether.

According to a memo obtained by Americans for Prosperity, the proposal recommends that alcohol producers would be prohibited from having any ownership in a distribution or retail operation and more state government bureaucracy would be created to make sure producers don't distribute their own products. Not surprisingly, craft brewers, wineries and distilleries were not contacted about this proposal.

Contact your state representatives and tell them to oppose changes to Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin State Code that would restrict craft breweries, wineries and distilleries in Wisconsin from selling their own product on their own premises.

Jeff Kortsch
Town of Oconomowoc

TODAY'S INSPIRATION

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

— Psalm 23:1-6

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