

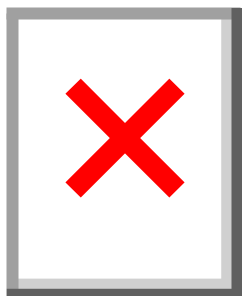
From: The Hill <thehill@email.thehill.com>

Sent: Apr 15, 2025 20:34:09.000000000 UTC

Subject: Evening Report — Culture war: Trump vs. Harvard, NPR

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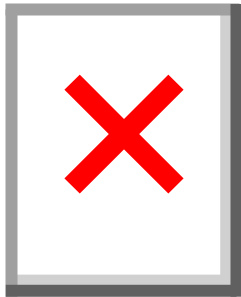
EVENING REPORT



PRESENTED BY

Tuesday, April 15 | By Jonathan Easley

TRUMP FIRST 100 DAYS



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Trump takes on Harvard, NPR in culture wars volley

PRESIDENT TRUMP is seeking to choke-off the flow of public funds to universities and media outlets he deems hostile to his values in the latest culture war barrage between the administration and credentialed institutions.

The battle between Trump and **Harvard University** exploded this week, with the administration freezing more than **\$2 billion** in grants and the president threatening the university's tax exempt status after Harvard rejected the government's demands for an overhaul.

Trump aides have cast prestigious **Ivy League** schools as breeding grounds for left-wing activism, citing the pro-Palestinian protests last year that disrupted classes and in some cases led to Jewish students being targeted for harassment.

*"They must follow federal law," White House press secretary **Karoline Leavitt** said Tuesday. "[Trump] also wants to see Harvard apologize ... for the egregious antisemitism that took place."*

A TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Last week, the federal government told Harvard it must reform its admissions and hiring practices, make leadership changes, probe departments for antisemitism and ban face masks if it wants to keep government funding.

Harvard refused, with university president **Alan Garber** accusing the government of targeting student and faculty political views they disagree with:

*"Although some of the demands outlined by the government are aimed at combating antisemitism, the majority represent direct governmental regulation of the 'intellectual conditions' at Harvard ... **we will not accept their proposed agreement**. The University will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights."*

The Trump administration responded with a freeze on [\\$2 billion in grants](#).

“More than \$2 billion out the door to Harvard when they have a more than \$50 billion endowment,” Leavitt said Tuesday. “Why are the American taxpayers subsidizing a university that has billions in the bank already? And we certainly should not be funding a place where such grave antisemitism exists.”

Trump followed with a [tax day threat](#):

“Perhaps Harvard should lose its Tax Exempt Status and be Taxed as a Political Entity if it keeps pushing political, ideological, and terrorist inspired/supporting ‘Sickness?’” Trump posted on Truth Social. “Remember, Tax Exempt Status is totally contingent on acting in the PUBLIC INTEREST!”

Democrats, who fumed after **Columbia University** agreed to some Trump administration demands in order to maintain its federal funding, cheered Harvard for taking a stand.

“Harvard has set an example for other higher-ed institutions – rejecting an unlawful and ham-handed attempt to stifle academic freedom, while taking concrete steps to make sure all students at Harvard can benefit from an environment of intellectual inquiry, rigorous debate and mutual respect,” former **President Obama** posted on X. *“Let’s hope other institutions follow suit.”*

WHITE HOUSE TAKES AIM AT NPR, PBS

Also this week, the White House asked Congress to cut about **\$1 billion** for the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting**, [the nonprofit that distributes funds](#) to **NPR, PBS** and many other outlets.

The White House blasted out a release accusing the outlets of spreading *“radical, woke propaganda disguised as news,”* while linking to lifestyle articles at the outlets about queer and transgender issues.

Trump has been ramping up his attacks on the media.

This week, he called for CBS to lose its broadcasting license and said the network would *“pay a big price”* for a “60 Minutes” episode [on the Russia-](#)

[Ukraine war.](#)

Meanwhile, **The Associated Press** said its journalists were [barred from covering an Oval Office event](#) Monday despite a federal judge's recent ruling that the administration must restore the outlet's access.

□ **Perspectives:**

- [USA Today](#): We're paying too much in taxes. Trump can fix it.
 - [New York Post](#): Harvard can target Jews — but not on the taxpayers' dime.
 - [The Hill](#): A storm of dissent against MAGA is brewing into a hurricane.
 - [The Guardian](#): US military aid for Ukraine is about to end. Is Europe ready?
 - [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#): The insatiable Uncle Sam.
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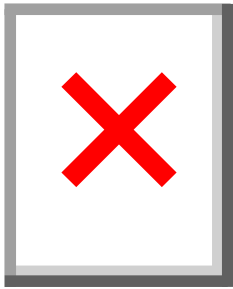
Read more:

- Trump not expected to attend [White House correspondents' dinner](#).
- Donald Trump Jr., Lara Trump [strike deal with Salem Media](#).
- 5 things to know about the [Trump, CBS feud](#).
- Columbia student [arrested by DHS agents](#) during naturalization interview.
- Big law [spends top dollar](#) as Trump takes aim at firms.

CATCH UP QUICK

- **It's tax day** and [Bloomberg reports](#) that almost 20,000 IRS employees — or about 20 percent of the agency — are taking buyouts.
- **The Federal Trade Commission** [grilled Meta CEO](#) Mark Zuckerberg on Tuesday over dozens of emails and messages he exchanged with other executives in the lead-up to the social media giant's acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp.
- **Los Angeles production insiders** are [voicing alarm](#) as Hollywood is at risk of becoming the “next Detroit auto.”

NEWS THIS AFTERNOON



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Controversial deportation case back in court

The Trump administration is appearing for a court hearing this afternoon in front of the judge who ordered the return of **Kilmar Abrego Garcia**, the man deported to a prison in **El Salvador** despite an earlier ruling saying he must not be sent back to his home country over concerns about his safety.

President Trump and his Cabinet officials are digging in, insisting there's no way to force Garcia's return.

In a court filing Monday, the administration pointed to remarks by El Salvador President **Nayib Bukele**, who said at an Oval Office meeting he would not send Garcia back to the U.S.

“DHS does not have the authority to forcibly extract an alien from the domestic custody of a foreign sovereign nation,” **Joseph Mazzara**, the acting general counsel for the Department of Homeland Security, wrote to Judge **Paula Xinis**.

Attorneys for Garcia swung back, accusing the Trump administration of disregarding the **9-0** Supreme Court ruling saying they must “facilitate” Garcia’s return.

“To give any meaning to the Supreme Court’s order, the Government should at least be required to request the release of Abrego Garcia,” Garcia’s lawyers wrote. *“To date, the Government has not done so.”*

House Minority Leader **Hakeem Jeffries** (D-N.Y.) called on Xinis to hold administration lawyers in [contempt of court](#), which is one possible outcome of Tuesday’s hearing.

“We’re very confident that every action taken by this administration is within the confines of the law,” White House press secretary **Karoline Leavitt** responded.

Sen. **Chris Murphy** (D-Conn.) called it a [“Constitutional crisis.”](#)

The White House is furious over what they see as media coverage that is sympathetic to the plight of Garcia, who has lived in the U.S. for years.

“The Democrat and media outrage over the deportation of Abrego Garcia, an MS-13 El Salvadoran illegal alien criminal who was hiding in Maryland, has been nothing short of despicable,” Leavitt said Tuesday. *“Based on the sensationalism of many of the people in this room you’d think we deported a candidate for father of the year.”*

“There was never going to be a world where this is an individual who was going to live a peaceful life in Maryland,” she added.

Garcia’s lawyers say he was not in a gang, not part of a foreign terrorist organization and not involved in human trafficking, as the White House

alleges, although an immigration judge at one point acknowledged there may be evidence of gang affiliation.

Attorney General **Pam Bondi** disparaged media accounts of Garcia that describe him as a “Maryland man.”

“He’s not a Maryland man,” Bondi said. “He’s part of a foreign terrorist organization.”

The White House on Tuesday also dug in on Trump’s musings about sending U.S. citizens convicted of crimes to the prison in El Salvador. Leavitt said the administration is “*looking into*” whether that would be legal.

“He’d only consider this, if legal, for Americans who are the most violent, egregious repeat offenders of crime who nobody in this room wants living in their communities,” she said.

□ **Perspectives:**

- [The Washington Post](#): Return Abrego García to Maryland.
 - [Racket](#): Timeline of the Garcia case.
 - [The Hill](#): The Supreme Court is letting Trump get away with it.
 - [MSNBC](#): Pam Bondi’s punishments are making her own job harder.
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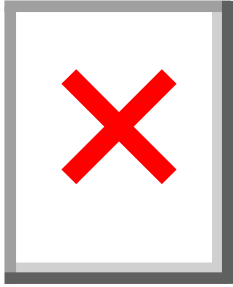
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IN OTHER NEWS



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Sanders, AOC draw huge crowd in deep-red Idaho

At least 12,000 people turned out in southwest **Idaho** on Monday night to see Sen. **Bernie Sanders** (I-Vt.) and Rep. **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (D-N.Y.), as their [“anti-oligarchy”](#) tour continues to be a big draw in surprising parts of the country.

The rally in **Nampa** follows the tens of thousands who turned out to see them in **Los Angeles** and **Salt Lake City** over the weekend.

The Hill's **Caroline Vakil** reports that the [success of the tour](#) has led to some buzz about Ocasio-Cortez's future:

"Though both Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez have been prominent figures for years now, the rallies have taken on increased attention as Democrats have struggled to find a way to reset and oppose President Trump during his second term in office."

Ocasio-Cortez raised nearly **\$10 million** in the [first quarter of 2025](#), her strongest funding period ever.

Meanwhile, Sen. **Cory Booker** (D-N.J.) has seen his fortunes rise following his record-breaking Senate speech.

Booker shot up to 11 percent in the latest **Echelon Insights** poll of [potential Democratic presidential candidates](#) after only registering 2 percent in the prior survey.

- Here's [everything you need to know](#) about **Cody Balmer**, who allegedly set fire to Pennsylvania Gov. **Josh Shapiro's** (D-Pa.) residence over the weekend.

The Hill's **Julia Mueller** and **Jared Gans** [write](#):

"The arson attack ... is the latest incident to underscore the threats faced by high-profile politicians amid the country's political polarization."

Elsewhere, the Justice Department announced that a man is [facing federal charges](#) for allegedly threatening to kill Director of National Intelligence **Tulsi Gabbard** and her husband.

The suspect in arson attacks against a Tesla showroom and the GOP headquarters in **New Mexico** is facing [40 years in prison](#).

- China ordered its airlines to [halt deliveries](#) of **Boeing** jets in the latest trade war volley.

This comes after China [suspended exports](#) of rare minerals that U.S. companies use for automobiles, semiconductors and other high-tech products.

Chinese official **Xia Baolong** [said in a speech](#) Monday that *“those peasants in the U.S.”* would *“wail in front of the 5,000 years of Chinese civilization.”*

In the U.S., House Minority Leader **Hakeem Jeffries** (D-N.Y.) is calling for a [ban on trading](#) by lawmakers after Rep. **Marjorie Taylor Greene** (R-Ga.) snapped up stocks during a recent market dip.

The Wall Street Journal reports that [trading desks are reporting big revenue](#) from capitalizing on the massive stock market swings around the daily tariffs news.

□ **Perspectives:**

- [The Liberal Patriot](#): Americans skeptical of Trump’s economy.
- [The Hill](#): Trump has no answer to Putin’s Palm Sunday message of death.
- [The Wall Street Journal](#): Trump’s Tariffs are as bad as Bidenomics.
- [The Atlantic](#): Trump is running economic development in reverse.
- [UnHerd](#): Biden paved the way for Trump’s embrace of Bukele.

Read more:

- Trump’s [fluctuating tariffs stir confusion](#) in tech industry.
- Trump’s tariffs war is [sparking uncertainty](#) for North Carolina farmers
- Housing affordability issues show [few signs of easing](#).
- Witkoff says US [‘finally’ got answer](#) on Putin’s demands for peace.
- Meta antitrust trial tests [MAGA-tech relationship](#).

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