

Eye on the World

July 15, 2017

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of July 15, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man” (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Benjamin Weinthal titled “Iran Still on the Hunt for Nuclear Weapons Technology Across Germany” was posted at weeklystandard.com on July 7, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Startling new evidence from German intelligence reports shows the Tehran regime is working to illegally obtain technology and know-how to advance its nuclear weapons and missile programs, despite the 2015 agreement to curb its nuclear program.

A report from the state of Hamburg holds that “there is no evidence of a complete about-face in Iran’s atomic polices in 2016” [after the Islamic Republic signed the JCPOA deal with Western powers in 2015, aimed at restricting Tehran’s nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief]. Iran sought missile carrier technology necessary for its rocket program.”

The report noted that the federal prosecutor filed criminal charges against three German citizens for violations of the export economic law due to the deliveries of 51 special valves to Iranian company that can be used for the Islamic Republic’s sanctioned Arak heavy water reactor.

The installation, the intelligence officials wrote, “can be used to develop plutonium for nuclear weapons.” Iran pledged, under the JCPOA deal, to “dismantle the [Arak] facility,” the intelligence report states.

On the proliferation of atomic, biological and chemical weapons, a second report from Baden-Württemberg's state intelligence agency report states: "Regardless of the number of national and international sanctions and embargoes, countries like Iran, Pakistan and North Korea are making efforts to optimize corresponding technology."

The 181-page document outlines the technology Iran is seeking: "Products and scientific know-how for the field of developing weapons of mass destruction as well [as] missile technology."

Iran's illegal procurement and terrorist activities are cited 49 times in the report and range from cyberwarfare to espionage to support of the EU- and U.S.-classified terrorist organization Hezbollah.

The Baden-Württemberg report provides detail on Iran's development of ballistic missiles with the aid of a Chinese front company. A Chinese import-export business approached a company in the southern German state that manufactures "complex metal producing machines" to buy equipment.

Berlin's Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control requested an end-use receipt for the Iranian purchase. The intelligence agency informed the engineering company that the merchandise was set to be unlawfully diverted to Iran. "This case shows that so-called indirect-deliveries across third countries is still Iran's procurement strategy," wrote the intelligence officials.

A third intelligence report from last month, from another German state, says that in 2016, "German companies located in Rhineland-Palatinate were contacted for illegal procurement attempts by [Pakistan, North Korea and Iran]."

The procurement attempts involved goods that were subject to authorization and approval on account of legal export restrictions and UN embargoes. These goods, for example, could be used for a state's nuclear and missile programs."



An article by Tom O'Connor titled "China and Pakistan Military Tests Flank India, Boost Tensions in Asia" was posted at newsweek.com on July 7, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

China and Pakistan this week each demonstrated their military might at a time of heightened tensions with neighboring India.

The Chinese and Pakistani governments have close military and economic ties, and both are involved in border disputes with India: The contested Kashmir region has been a flashpoint between India and Pakistan for decades, and claims over land on the Sino-Indian border have led to confrontation in recent weeks.

China's decision to carry out live-fire military drills near its border region of Tibet nearly coincided with Pakistan's test launch of a nuclear-capable missile this week.

"We have repeatedly said the Indian troops...illegally crossed the delimited Sikkim section of the China-India boundary mutually recognized by the two sides," a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, Geng Shuang, said Thursday during a routine press briefing.

"That is essentially different from the previous border frictions and stand-offs between the two border troops in undefined areas," Shuang said. "India's trespass into China's territory has changed the status quo which can only be recovered when the Indian side withdraws."

Shuang's comments referred to an incident last month when China said Indian soldiers crossed the international Tibet boundary between the Indian state of Sikkim and the Chinese region of Tibet, sparking a verbal dispute. India has since accused China of compromising the security of nearby Bhutan, an ally of India's, by constructing roads close to the border region shared by the three nations. China has dismissed these claims and has, in turn, accused India of militarizing its side of the border, Reuters reported.

Amid the heightened tensions, *The Global Times*, a nationalist outlet aligned with China's ruling Communist Party, urged Beijing to "reconsider its stance" over its recognition of Sikkim as an Indian state, which China only recognized in 2003, *The Hindustan Times* reported. Indian concerns were exacerbated by China's recent live-fire drills in the mountainous border region.

The exercises were reportedly intended to test the high-altitude capabilities of its new Type 96B tank and assess "battlefield environment analysis, combat operations command, combat coordination and other real combat and live-fire shooting training," according to a report published by China's state-run Xinhua News Agency and translated by the Times of India.

While India deals with military tension on its far eastern border, it was called out by name by its northern rival, Pakistan, which has been independent from India since 1947 and since that time has fought four wars with its longtime foe. One of the most contentious disputes is over the territory of Kashmir, which lies on Pakistan and India's mutual border and has been the source of a number of violent and even fatal incidents over the decades.

Escalations between Pakistan and India risk far-reaching consequences, because both countries possess nuclear weapons and neither is a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Earlier this week, one of Pakistan's top generals flaunted his country's defense capabilities by testing an advanced version of its surface-to-surface, nuclear-capable NASR missile and dismissing India's so-called Cold Start doctrine of preventing a Pakistani nuclear attack through conventional preemptive strikes.



An article by Damien Sharkov titled "Russia's Military Just Carried Out a Massive Test Airstrike in West" was posted at newsweek.com on July 7, 2017. Following is the article.

Russia's westernmost forces finished a 5,000-strong drill quite literally with a bang. The drill ended with a massive practice airstrike using four different kinds of warplanes in a joint assault, state news agency Itar-Tass reported Thursday [July 6], citing Russia's Western Military District.

The exact number of jets was not given though Su-27, Su-30SM, Su-35 and the MiG-31 units all took part, assisted by Krasukha electronic warfare units. The drill involved jamming enemy detection capabilities, thereby blindsiding the hypothetical designated opponent in the drill.

The practice airstrike was a response to a hypothetical attack, the statement by the military district stated. A total of 2,000 units of military kit were involved in the wider exercise in an unspecified location on Russia's north-western flank, which ended Thursday.

Russia's armed forces in the northwest have pursued a visible reinforcement and uptick in activity in recent years as ties with its Western neighbors have deteriorated. Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 prompted a tide of solidarity from Western powers, particularly in Russia's neighboring Baltics, which were once part of the Soviet Union.

A recent poll found more people in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia fear the likelihood of war than the prospect of extremist attacks of the sort that have struck western capitals. There is strong support among the Baltics for NATO reinforcement measures and the idea of wider western military alliances, such as a European Union army.

Russia's upcoming drill with ally Belarus in the region is currently regarded as a climax in the anxiety Baltic countries have experienced, with increased intercepts of Russian warplanes near their airspace, and Russian naval drills nearby this summer.

Lithuania has accused Russia of "simulating" an attack on NATO with its Zapad drill and has cast doubt over whether the drill will be as transparent as international agreements require. Russia has denied it would attack a NATO ally, though trust between Russia and the West is at a low point and has been further eroded by the Kremlin's inconsistent interpretation of events in Ukraine.



An article by Alex Lockie titled "The US Had a Clear Shot at Killing Kim Jong Un on July 4—Here's Why It Didn't Strike" was posted at businessinsider.com on July 11, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

When North Korea launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile in the early-morning hours of July 4, US military and intelligence personnel watched for a full 70 minutes, a source told The Diplomat's Ankit Panda.

During that time, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un smoked cigarettes and strolled around the launchpad under the US's gaze.

The US knew North Korea was in the final stages of building an ICBM after a recent rocket-engine test. The US knew North Korea liked to test missiles on the American Independence Day to send a message. The US knew this missile was different from any it had seen before, and the US knew it could destroy it with a variety of precision-fire platforms in the region. Importantly, the US also had Kim in its crosshairs for over an hour—and did nothing.

Those facts speak volumes about the security climate in the Koreas.

Video of the launch clearly shows Kim on-site, sometimes feet away from the missile. The next day, the US and South Korea put on a blistering display of precision-guided firepower demonstrating they could have both killed Kim and stopped the launch. But they didn't.

By letting North Korea know it watched Kim as he prepared for one of his country's most provocative missile tests ever, Baker says, the US may have sent two powerful messages.

The decision fit with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's statement that the US wanted "to bring Kim Jong Un to his senses, not his knees" and that regime change was not the US's ultimate goal.

Perhaps rather than kill Kim and trigger a North Korean response, which could be massive, the US elected to signal that the best path to regime security would be to stay indoors and not play around near dangerous rocket engines, which have a habit of blowing up.



An article by Dave Mosher titled "If a Nuclear Bomb Explodes, These Are the Emergency Supplies You Should Have Prepared or Grab on the Run" was posted at businessinsider.com on July 6, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

North Korea on Tuesday [July 6] reportedly launched its first intercontinental ballistic missile—a rocket capable of traveling more than 3,400 miles with a weapon on top. The feat suggests that the isolated country, one of nine nations that together wield more than 14,900 nukes, could strike Alaska.

However, the rest of the US faces a much different and shadowy nuclear threat: a terrorist-caused nuclear detonation, which is one of 15 disasters scenarios that the federal government has planned for—just in case.

"National Planning Scenario No. 1 is a 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in a modern US city," Brooke Buddemeier, a health physicist and expert on radiation at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, told Business Insider. "A 10-kiloton nuclear detonation is equivalent to 5,000 Oklahoma City bombings. Though we call it 'low yield,' it's a pretty darn big explosion."

Buddemeier couldn't say how likely such an attack might be today. But the concern isn't unfounded, since weapons-grade nuclear materials have proliferated in recent years, along with smaller, kiloton-class bombs. And while governments do their best to safeguard nuclear-weapons materials, there's no guarantee a terrorist couldn't succeed in obtaining them.

Should a nuclear blast occur near your city or town, and you somehow avoided its searing flash of light, crushing shockwaves, and incendiary fireball, take shelter immediately (read our full fallout survival guide here). You should also have a few items handy in your emergency kit.

"Would you have considered Oklahoma City a likely target?" Buddemeier said. "I think it's worthwhile for everybody to think about preparedness for any kind of event."

Buddemeier said the best plan was to round up the emergency supplies on Ready.gov, which are listed at the end of this post.

"This isn't just for the nuclear holocaust event," Buddemeier said. "This is for general emergency preparedness and making sure that you and your family can be safe in an emergency."

But if you're in a pinch, he said you should grab a few basics while you run for cover from radioactive fallout.

Prepare to hunker down for 24-48 hours

A fearsome aftereffect of nuclear blasts is fallout, a complex mixture of fission products (or radioisotopes) created by splitting atoms.

Many of these fission products decay rapidly and emit gamma radiation—an invisible yet highly energetic form of light. Too much exposure to this radiation in a short time can damage the body's cells and its ability to fix itself, leading to a condition called acute radiation syndrome or sickness.

"It also affects the immune system and your ability to fight infections," Buddemeier said.

Only very dense and thick materials, like many feet of dirt or inches of lead, can reliably stop the gamma radiation emitted by fallout. It's also a threat you'd be foolish to attempt to escape by driving away in a car or other vehicle.

"Your ability to know where the fallout's gonna go, and outrun it, are—well, it's very unlikely," he said, because it would be carried by high-altitude winds "often booking along at 100 miles per hour."

While rushing to a fallout shelter within the first minutes after a blast, or migrating to a better one, you'll want a few things to get through the next 24 to 48 hours—when radioactive fallout exposure risk is the greatest.

The minimum your emergency kit should have

If a full emergency-preparedness kit isn't handy—say, if you were on public transit to or from work—Buddemeier recommends trying to grab a few items,

just as long as it wouldn't delay your taking shelter from fallout by more than a couple of minutes.

Item No. 1 is a radio, he said—ideally a hand-cranked type with a USB charging port that can power other devices. “If you have a cellphone, that'll work too,” he said.

Buddemeier said he preferred a radio over a mobile phone because “sometimes the cell towers may be affected,” either by power outages, crushing demand, or an invisible yet powerful effect of nuclear weapons called electromagnetic pulse. (The effect can disable electronics, though a ground detonation would mostly confine EMP to the blast damage zone, where you'd have much bigger problems.)

He says a radio is important because you need to receive emergency broadcasts and instructions. It's one of the simplest ways to figure out where dangerous fallout has landed, when you can leave your shelter, and where the safest routes to exit a fallout zone are.

Second, Buddemeier says, you'll want water—ideally 1 gallon per person per day, according to Ready.gov. In addition to drinking it, you may need it to rinse off any radioactive fallout after removing your clothes, since this can drastically reduce your radiation exposure.

Third, Buddemeier said, “I would probably grab a breakfast bar or two to stave off the hunger a little bit.” Fourth, he says to grab any essential medications or treatments you might need.

Buddemeier says there's a risk in trying to gather too much stuff, since the first minutes and hours after a blast are when radioactive fallout exposure risk is the greatest—especially outdoors.

One thing he definitely does not recommend stressing about immediately after a blast is potassium iodine pills, which wouldn't be very useful in the next 48 hours.

“Most people seem to think of the potassium iodide, or KI, pills as some type of anti-radiation drug. They are not,” Buddemeier said. “They are for preventing the uptake of radioiodine, which is one radionuclide out of thousands of radionuclides that are out there.”

Radioiodine is “probably like [0.2%] of the overall exposure that you may be facing if you're outdoors,” he said, adding that the pills are most helpful for addressing longer-term concerns about food-supply contamination. “The most important thing is sheltering in place and not trying to seek out things like KI, because the act of trying to find your KI and get your KI may cause you to get a much higher exposure to everything else and offer very little protection in return.”

Buddemeier says he hopes no one will ever have to act on his advice. But if people could find good shelters—and are able to receive broadcast instructions from emergency personnel—the blow of a catastrophe could be softened, he says.

“We may not be able to do much about the blast casualties, because where you were is where you were, and you can't really change that. But fallout

casualties are entirely preventable,” he said. “In a large city . . . knowing what to do after an event like this can literally save hundreds of thousands of people from radiation illness or fatalities.”

More-complete emergency-supply checklists from FEMA

It’s smart to have a family plan as well as a few basic emergency kits to last several days, then stash them at home, work, and in your vehicles.

But the emergency-supply lists below, published by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency, aren’t helpful just for making it through the aftermath of a nuclear blast, but for weathering tornadoes, hurricanes, snowstorms, power outages, and other take-shelter emergencies.

FEMA recommends each of your kits have these essential items in a portable bag:

- Water: 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- Food: at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air, and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food).
- Local maps.

If you have the space, the need, and the foresight, FEMA also recommends beefing up your basic kits with these items:

- Prescription medications and glasses.
- Infant formula and diapers.
- Pet food and extra water for your pet.
- Important family documents, such as copies of insurance policies, identification, and bank-account records in a waterproof, portable container.
- Cash or traveler’s checks and change.

- Emergency reference material such as a first-aid book or information from Ready.gov.
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper: When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented or color-safe bleaches, or those with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Matches in a waterproof container.
- Feminine supplies and personal-hygiene items.
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, and paper towels.
- Paper and pencil.
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children.

You can access more information about how to prepare for a variety of emergency scenarios at FEMA.



An article by Firat Kozok titled "100,000 and Counting: No Letup in Turkey Coup Purges a Year On" was posted at bloomberg.com on July 12, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

The scale of Turkey's crackdown on alleged government opponents following last year's attempted coup was confirmed by a top official, as the nation prepares to mark the anniversary of the failed putsch amid deepening concern over the rule of law.

Authorities have fired 103,824 state employees and suspended 33,483 more since the July 15 bid to seize power by a section of the military, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said in an interview.

The purge of suspected followers of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, accused by the government of orchestrating the coup attempt, is necessary to ensure national security, he said.

Justice Ministry data showed 50,546 suspected members of Gulen's organization were in prison on July 3, and that arrest warrants had been issued for 8,000 others. The preacher denies involvement in the takeover attempt.

"There might be crypto members of Feto who walk on the snow without leaving tracks," Kurtulmus said, using an abbreviation of Gulen's first name that officials have adopted since the defeated military power grab to refer to his movement. "Related agencies are carefully conducting their work against this possibility."

The unyielding assault on perceived threats to the government has raised twin alarms over the autonomy of judicial bodies and growing intolerance toward criticism of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who narrowly won sweeping executive powers in a referendum this year. Among those detained have been journalists, academics and activists.



A Reuters article by Luke Baker titled "Israel Backs Hungary, Says Financier Soros is a Threat" was posted at reuters.com on July 10, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Israel's foreign ministry has issued a statement denouncing U.S. billionaire George Soros, a move that appeared designed to align Israel more closely with Hungary ahead of a visit to Budapest next week by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Soros, a Hungarian-born Jew who has spent a large part of his fortune funding pro-democracy and human rights groups, has repeatedly been targeted by Hungary's right-wing government, in particular over his support for more open immigration.

In the latest case, Prime Minister Viktor Orban has backed a campaign in which Soros is singled out as an enemy of the state. "Let's not allow Soros to have the last laugh" say billboards next to a picture of the 86-year-old investor, a campaign that Jewish groups and others say foments anti-Semitism.

Soros, who rarely addresses personal attacks against him, has not commented on the billboards. But Hungarian Jewish groups and Human Rights Watch, an organization partly funded by Soros, have condemned the campaign, saying it "evokes memories of the Nazi posters during the Second World War".

Many posters have been defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti, including the words "stinking Jew" written in magic marker.

Israel's ambassador to Hungary issued a statement denouncing the campaign, saying it "evokes sad memories but also sows hatred and fear", an apparent reference to Hungary's part in the deportation of 500,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

But hours after the ambassador made his comments over the weekend, Israel's foreign ministry issued a "clarification" saying that Soros was a legitimate target for criticism.

"In no way was the statement (by the ambassador) meant to delegitimize criticism of George Soros, who continuously undermines Israel's democratically elected governments," said foreign ministry spokesman Emmanuel

Nahshon, adding that Soros funded organizations “that defame the Jewish state and seek to deny it the right to defend itself”.

A spokesman for Soros’s Open Society Foundations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



A Reuters article by Kate Kellard titled “WHO Warns of Imminent Spread of Untreatable Superbug Gonorrhoea” was posted at reuters.com on July 7, 2017. Following is the article.

At least three people worldwide are infected with totally untreatable “superbug” strains of gonorrhoea which they are likely to be spreading to others through sex, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday [July 7].

Giving details of studies showing a “very serious situation” with regard to highly drug-resistant forms of the sexually-transmitted disease (STD), WHO experts said it was “only a matter of time” before last-resort gonorrhoea antibiotics would be of no use.

“Gonorrhoea is a very smart bug,” said Teodora Wi, a human reproduction specialist at the Geneva-based U.N. health agency.

“Every time you introduce a new type of antibiotic to treat it, this bug develops resistance to it.”

The WHO estimates 78 million people a year get gonorrhoea, an STD that can infect the genitals, rectum and throat.

The infection, which in many cases has no symptoms on its own, can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy and infertility, as well as increasing the risk of getting HIV.

Wi, who gave details in a telephone briefing of two studies on gonorrhoea published in the journal PLOS Medicine, said one had documented three specific cases—one each in Japan, France and Spain—of patients with strains of gonorrhoea against which no known antibiotic is effective.

“These are cases that can infect others. It can be transmitted,” she told reporters. “And these cases may just be the tip of the iceberg, since systems to diagnose and report untreatable infections are lacking in lower-income countries where gonorrhoea is actually more common.”

Drug resistance

The WHO’s program for monitoring trends in drug-resistant gonorrhoea found in a study that from 2009 to 2014 there was widespread resistance to the first-line medicine ciprofloxacin, increasing resistance to another antibiotic drugs called azithromycin, and the emergence of resistance to last-resort treatments known as extended-spectrum cephalosporins (ESCs).

In most countries, it said, ESCs are now the only single antibiotics that remain effective for treating gonorrhoea. Yet resistance to them has already been reported in 50 countries.

Manica Balasegaram, director of the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, said the situation was "grim" and there was a "pressing need" for new medicines.

The pipeline, however, is very thin, with only three potential new gonorrhoea drugs in development and no guarantee any will prove effective in final-stage trials, he said.

"We urgently need to seize the opportunities we have with existing drugs and candidates in the pipeline," he told reporters. "Any new treatment developed should be accessible to everyone who needs it, while ensuring it is used appropriately, so that drug resistance is slowed as much as possible."



An article by Rebecca Hagelin titled "When the Government Becomes a God" was posted at townhall.com on July 12, 2017. Following is the article.

"Kill him," the judge decreed.

"Yes. And do it at once," the tribunal agreed.

The parents of the convicted begged for mercy.

"How dare you question our authority," the courts answered. "He must die."

"But what is his crime?" the parents desperately asked.

"He is not normal," the judge coldly declared. "His life is therefore of no value."

"Please," the mother cried. "He is my child, my baby. He is of immense value to me. I treasure every hour, every moment with him. Please, give me my baby and let me search the world for help."

"Please," the father begged. "He is of immeasurable value to me. I am his daddy. I will fly to the ends of the earth to find help for him. Until his last breath, I will be his protector and helper."

But the government courts, the gods of life and death, declared that the baby must die.

The baby's crime? He is sick, very sick.

And he is unable to speak for himself.

My imaginings of this frightful scene reflect the realities of the battle over 11-month-old Charlie Gard.

Even as I write this column, Charlie's mom and dad continue to beg for the life of their son. They are fighting for him as God ordained parents to do. They are cuddling Charlie as they are able, adoring and immersing his tiny body in comforting, warm love.

Despite the fact that his prospects for a long life are dim, and despite the fact that he will never meet the court's standards for "normal," he is loved and cherished by his family. Each hour of his life has value and meaning—not because of what he can or cannot do—but because God said it is so.

The European courts have the supreme authority to decide the fate of all European citizens partly because of the socialist, government-run health care structure that provides "free" care to all. "Free" care that comes with a noose—a government tribunal deciding who gets to live, and who has an obligation to die.

The name of the highest court declares its intent: The European Court of Human Rights. It is a court system established, not to protect God-given rights, but to allow a few humans to arrogantly determine what the rights of other human beings are. They are the gods of Europe.

This is not an issue of Charlie's medical care costing these gods too much: the parents have raised millions from private donations to pay for treatments.

This is not an issue of these gods being burdened by a cumbersome child: Charlie's parents want to leave Europe and bring Charlie to the United States for treatment.

This is not an issue of there being no medical professionals willing to treat the child: Several doctors and hospitals are pleading to treat Charlie. They have even offered to do so for free.

No, this is an issue of government control. This is what happens when the government becomes god.

America, take note: If we demand a society where the government gods provide "free" health care, we will pay for it with our freedom, even by giving up the sacred right to protect our sons and daughters. And we also may be forced one day to sacrifice our own children to the gods.



An article by Brian Joondeph titled "Clooney Tunes on Open Borders" was posted at americanthinker.com on July 8, 2017. Following is the article.

George Clooney, actor and political soothsayer, who last year inaccurately predicted that "there's not going to be a President Donald Trump," is back in the news. Not for another Ocean's 25, or whatever number they are up to, but instead for acknowledging reality.

Clooney announced that his wife and twin babies will move from his England estate back to Trump's America, to Los Angeles, over security concerns. What

security issues do the Clooneys have in their mansion sitting on five and a half acres on an island along the Thames River? Simply put, “he doesn’t feel like Amal and the twins are safe living in the English countryside.”

Could it be the recent run of terrorist attacks in the U.K.? The bombing at the Ariana Grande concert? The London Bridge attack? The British government acknowledging 23,000 jihadists living in Britain?

These are reasonable fears, shared by many in the U.K. who live in the same neighborhoods as the jihadists, not in secluded country estates with private security. I’m sure many in London would prefer to live in L.A. rather than in ground zero for Islamic jihad—but without the Clooneys’ means to pick up and move.

Isn’t Mr. Clooney’s attitude considered Islamophobia? Or racism? Or intolerance? Does this make him a bigot? Depends on whom you ask.

If you ask George Clooney in 2015, the answer is clear. When candidate Donald Trump talked about building a wall on our southern border he described some, but not all, immigrants as “rapists” and “criminals.”

Clooney’s response, not surprising as a card-carrying member of the liberal elite: “Anybody who says as intolerant words as those should be laughed at, and that’s pretty much what history will do.” He went farther, saying, “Clearly, what he said is idiotic. Of course it’s idiotic.”

So who’s the intolerant one now? Who’s idiotic? The 2015 virtue-signaling George Clooney aghast at candidate Trump’s realistic assessment of the consequences of illegal immigration? Or the George Clooney of 2017, realizing that the open-borders, unlimited-immigration policies of the U.K. and other European countries are dangerous and making the country unsafe? Including for him and his family.

Funny how liberals moralize from their high horses behind their walls, fences, and security guards. But when reality starts encroaching on their insular worlds, they realize what the rest of us know instinctively.

Even Bill Gates acknowledged that Germany’s open-door policy for migrants will overwhelm Europe. He will be safe in his castle on Lake Washington, but credit him for finally recognizing the obvious, even at 61 years of age.

George Clooney is just the latest example of the old saying: “A conservative is a liberal who’s been mugged by reality.” George Clooney won’t become a conservative, but at least he has taken a small step away from the liberal plantation.



An article by Annabel Scott titled “AP: Journalists Should Avoid Using Words ‘Pro-Life,’ ‘Terrorist,’ or ‘Migrant’ in News Stories” was posted at cnsnews.com on July 11, 2017. Following is the article.

The *Associated Press Stylebook*, published by the Associated Press to provide reporting and language guidelines for journalists, has released a 2017 version that instructs journalists to refrain from using terms like “pro-life,” “migrant,” “refugee,” “Islamist” and “terrorist” in their writing.

In her July 9 article, “How the *AP Stylebook* censors ‘pro-life’ and other conservative words,” published in *The Hill*, Rachel Alexander points out the obvious bias in the *AP Stylebook*.

“More often than not, style writers have been more interested in censoring conservative words while promoting language that liberals tend to favor,” said Alexander. “That’s been especially true of the *AP Stylebook* published by The Associated Press. It’s unfortunate, because that’s the guide most journalists rely upon.”

Alexander points out that the *Stylebook* instructs journalists to change “pro-life” to “anti-abortion,” because the *AP Stylebook* says to “[u]se anti-abortion instead of pro-life and pro-abortion rights instead of pro-abortion or pro-choice.”

The *Stylebook* also says to avoid using the term abortionist because it “connotes a person who performs clandestine abortions.”

When it comes to words regarding terrorism, the *Stylebook* instructs journalists to use the terms “Militant,” “lone wolves,” or “attackers” instead of “terrorist” or “Islamist.”

The *Stylebook* also suggests that instead of using the term “migrant” or “refugee,” “people struggling to enter Europe” should be used.

In addition, the *Stylebook* deemed the terms “Illegal immigrant” and “undocumented” as unacceptable.

“The mainstream media claim that it’s not biased, but it’s got this bias built into its own words, and we’re seeing these words increasingly scrubbed from news articles and replaced by politically correct words instead,” Alexander said during a Fox & Friends appearance on Tuesday.

“It’s a bias against conservatives, and it’s getting worse every year,” she said.



An editorial by John Stossel titled “Stupid Hostile Media” was posted at townhall.com on July 12, 2017. Following is the article.

President Donald Trump drives people crazy.

Especially those in the media.

They hate him so much, they leap on every anti-Trump rumor.

The Federalist’s Jordyn Pair points out that the press repeatedly told us that a dozen Trump administration members were about to be fired, including

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Press Secretary Sean Spicer and strategists Steve Bannon and Jared Kushner.

Months later, all still work for or with the administration.

I actually wish Sessions had been fired, but Trump's staff reshufflings are no more frequent than those of other administrations, including President Obama's. The media so desperately want something bad to happen, to prove Trump's unqualified, that they blow stuff up.

New York Times writers are so upset by Trump's rants against them that they act like he's a Venezuelan dictator who will shut them down. (Wait, don't *Times* socialists like Venezuelan dictators?)

"Independent Press Is Under Siege as Freedom Rings" was one recent headline.

The evidence?

"The First Amendment," wrote the normally sensible media columnist Jim Rutenberg, "is under near-daily assault from the highest levels of the government."

The "assault" cited was Trump's tweeting out a fake wrestling video, which depicted, as Rutenberg put it, "himself tackling and beating a figure with a CNN logo superimposed."

So what? The video, like professional wrestling, was childish and unpresidential. But it doesn't put the press "under siege." It's a lame joke.

Rutenberg goes on to ask how we can feel good about Independence Day and press freedom "when the president lashes out at The Washington Post by making a veiled threat against the business interests of its owner, Jeff Bezos, suggesting that his other company, Amazon, is a tax avoider. (Where have we seen that sort of thing before—Russia maybe?)"

Hello? In Russia, Putin probably murdered reporters. Trump merely suggested that Bezos dodges taxes.

I threw that at Rutenberg. He emailed back, "That wasn't a reference to murder (but) to executive authority using tax code to squelch free-speech." In Russia, media that criticized Putin were raided and accused of tax fraud.

But Trump hasn't done any of that. There's speculation that he will block a Time Warner merger, but hasn't done it.

Another annoying *Times* headline: "The Network Against the Leader of the Free World."

The story complained about Trump's "denunciations (of CNN) in stinging tweets and slashing speeches."

Poor CNN. Except the story also quoted the company's president bragging about viewership that's "the highest in the network's history." For some reason, it didn't mention that CNN's audience is still less than half that of Fox.

But my main objection to that story's headline is the phrase "Leader of the Free World."

The line first appeared in The New York Times when I was 1 year old. An economist argued that the U.S., the "leader of the free world," should lead the fight against Communism.

That made sense. The U.S. was and is the world's wealthiest and most powerful country.

But no president is "leader of the free world." Does President Trump lead Japan? Iceland? Does he lead you?

He's not my leader. The president leads one of three branches of government. He's commander in chief of the armed services. He's not "leader of the free world."

The media obsess about Trump's speeches, tweets and narcissistic behavior as if he were king of the world. But even the president is just one man in a very large bureaucracy.

There are legitimate reasons to worry about what Trump might do. I worry that he'll start a trade war. Or a shooting war. There's plenty to worry about.

So why make things up?

If you worry that Trump will destroy your way of life, the smartest thing to do is to decrease the power of all presidents: Shrink the executive branch back to the humble role it had when the founders wrote the Constitution.

Make sure Congress passes declarations of war before the U.S. goes to war. Don't let any president rule through executive orders. Make sure Congress passes laws instead of letting federal agencies write rules.

A president's job is to execute laws. The fewer and simpler those laws, the easier it will be to prevent crazy things from happening.



An article by Matt Vespa titled "CNN is Losing Evening Ratings War—With Nick-At-Nite?" was posted at townhall.com on July 7, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

CNN is quickly becoming the biggest punching bag for their endless trip ups regarding their coverage of the Trump White House and politics in general.

James O'Keefe posted videos from his investigation into the network, showing CNN producers calling Trump a "f**king crazy" clown and acknowledging that the Russian collusion story is "mostly bulls**t." Why keep reporting on it? It's because the story is great for ratings.

CNN commentator Van Jones also called the whole Russia story a “big nothing burger.” Compounding the issue was the forced resignations of three reporters, who were part of a team that published a shoddy Russia-Trump story that CNN was forced to retract. Rumors are that staffers are furious over the fallout since they lost the “moral high ground.”

Then, they issued what appears to be a veiled threat against a Reddit user for creating a video showing President Trump beating up WWE’s Vince McMahon, who had the CNN logo superimposed over his face. The media went nuts. CNN tracked down the user, who issued an apology for his posts, which he admitted were racist and anti-Semitic. The network did not publish his identity “because he is a private citizen who has issued an extensive statement of apology,” but added “CNN reserves the right to publish his identity should any of that change.”

Even Vox was unnerved by this course of action taken by CNN. The network mentioned Russia almost 16,000 times in their reporting since the inauguration. They’re gung-ho about the Russia collusion angle, but can’t find any evidence (maybe because there is none) to support that claim, but are able to find a Reddit user who hurt their feelings.

Over at The Federalist, Sean Davis noted how CNN’s ratings might not be as solid in prime time, as they’re in a titanic duel . . . with Nick-at-Nite.

- Last week, more Americans tuned in to watch re-runs of “Yogi Bear,” “Full House,” and “Friends” on Nick At Nite than to watch Anderson Cooper and Don Lemon’s shows on CNN.

- According to cable ratings from the week of June 26-July 2, CNN’s viewership of its primetime shows was ranked significantly lower than its competitors like Fox News and MSNBC, which place first and second respectively. Clocking in at No. 10 on the list, CNN fell behind HGTV, Nick At Nite, History Channel, and ESPN—the sports network that’s been hemorrhaging viewers for months.



A video and an article by Martha MacCallum titled “Krauthammer: ‘Incompetence is Not a Good Defense’ for Don Jr.” were posted at foxnews.com on July 11, 2017. Following is the article.

Charles Krauthammer characterized Donald Trump Jr.’s defense for meeting with a Russian lawyer as “incompetence,” saying it’s not a good justification.

Krauthammer said Trump Jr.’s explanation for why the meeting was not suspicious collusion was that “it didn’t work out.”

Trump Jr. said Natalia Veselnitskaya promised to have what amounted to opposition research on Hillary Clinton in Spring 2016.

He called the meeting a “waste of 20 minutes” and not particularly memorable. Krauthammer said he’s defended Trump Jr. and his father against accusations of collusion because there “wasn’t [any] ‘there’ there.”

“[But] the denial of collusion is very weak right now because it looks as if Don Junior was receptive to receiving this information,” Krauthammer said.

“It’s a hell of a defense to say your collusion wasn’t competent and it didn’t work out,” he said.



An article by Pam Key titled “Ann Coulter: Republican Obstructionists ‘Hate Trump Every Bit As Much As MSNBC Does’ ” was posted at breitbart.com on July 11, 2017. Following is the article.’ ”

Tuesday on Fox Business Network’s “Varney & Company,” conservative columnist Ann Coulter said Republicans on Capitol Hill were “slow-walking” President Donald Trump’s agenda.

She went on to add that they “hate Trump every bit as much as MSNBC does.”

Coulter said, “I do think we’re getting a little Republican obstructionism with Trump as well. Come on. It takes 51 votes to confirm a nominee, so they put in, what, these blue slips and say, ‘no I’m holding.’ A one-person filibuster? No. McConnell should say you’ve taken this too far. We’re not going to let you put in your blue slips or yellow slips or whatever they call them and have one person stop a nominee. In one case, Thom Tillis, he is going precisely against the Trump agenda. He refuses to confirm the head of the Immigration Service unless he can get a bunch more cheap foreign workers for the Chamber of Commerce.”

She continued, “McConnell could do something, and also I think some of these Republicans like Tillis ought to be called out.”

Coulter added, “A lot of them really, really hate Trump every bit as much as MSNBC does and they’re slow-walking everything, and they are not helping him.”



An article by Naomi Jagoda titled “Conservatives Revolt Over Talk of Keeping ObamaCare Tax” was posted at thehill.com on July 7, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Conservative groups are warning GOP senators against keeping an ObamaCare tax on investment income in their healthcare bill, an idea that has gained some traction among lawmakers.

GOP lawmakers have floated keeping ObamaCare’s 3.8 percent net investment income tax to help pay for more generous healthcare subsidies for low-

income people. Democrats criticized an earlier version of the Senate's health-care bill for eliminating the tax because it generally applies to high earners.

But prominent conservatives argue Democrats will criticize the bill regardless of what happens with the tax. They say the tax is harmful to economic growth and should be repealed.

"This tax, just like any tax increase, is an anathema to conservatives as it suppresses economic growth and opportunity throughout our nation," Club for Growth President David McIntosh said in a statement Wednesday. "Under no circumstances should the NIIT be included in any forthcoming Republican 'repeal' bill."

ObamaCare's net investment income tax applies to individuals making more than \$200,000 and married couples making more than \$250,000. The tax falls on forms of income that include capital gains, dividends and interest.

It is one of a number of taxes that Democrats enacted to help pay for ObamaCare. Other revenue provisions include a Medicare surtax on high earners and taxes on the medical device, prescription drug and health-insurance industries, among other things.

Republicans have long disliked the investment tax. The ObamaCare repeal bill the House passed in May would retroactively repeal the tax to the start of 2017, and the draft bill Senate Republicans released last month also would retroactively do away with the tax.

But the initial version of the Senate bill did not have enough votes to pass, and several GOP senators have suggested that they would be open to keeping the net investment income tax if it would allow lawmakers to bolster healthcare subsidies.

"We [want to] address the issue of ensuring lower-income citizens are in a position to buy plans that actually provide them appropriate healthcare," Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) told reporters last week.

Outside conservative groups, however, are pushing back against the idea.

Before the initial version of the Senate bill was unveiled, more than 40 free market groups and activists wrote a letter to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) urging lawmakers to repeal all of ObamaCare's taxes.

Representatives from the groups that signed the letter say they are troubled by the recent discussions about dropping the repeal of the net investment income tax, since they view repeal of the tax as a way to help boost the economy.

"Cutting the capital gains tax gets you growth," said Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist. He called keeping the investment tax an "economically illiterate bad idea."

Taxpayers Protection Alliance President David Williams said that failing to repeal the investment tax would cause investors to delay selling assets and would "discourage more entry into the stock market."

Democrats have been repeatedly attacking Republicans on healthcare by arguing that their legislation would increase healthcare costs for poorer Americans to provide tax cuts to the rich. This message may be resonating, as polls have found that more people oppose the Senate's draft bill than support it.

The optics of repealing the investment tax are problematic for Republicans, and scrapping the idea could help to win over moderate GOP senators. But conservatives stress that keeping the tax is bad policy and won't get any Democrats to back the bill.

"Democrats will pocket the concession and continue demagoguing tax cuts for the wealthy as the tax debate begins—only more emboldened for having tasted blood," the Wall Street Journal's right-leaning editorial board wrote earlier this week.

Conservatives also say failing to repeal the investment tax in a healthcare bill could make tax reform more challenging. If lawmakers wanted to repeal the tax as part of tax reform instead of in healthcare legislation, they would likely need to find a way to offset the \$172 billion in revenue losses that the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates would result from the provision's elimination.

And if lawmakers opt against repealing the investment tax in tax reform as well, their cuts to tax rates won't actually be as big as they look.

"In our opinion, it would be a mistake to throw away an opportunity to get a head start on tax reform," National Taxpayers Union President Pete Sepp said. He added that the investment tax doesn't only affect wealthy people because it wasn't indexed to inflation, so it will affect more and more people over time.

The chairmen of the congressional tax-writing committees are among the biggest proponents of repealing the investment tax in healthcare legislation. Hatch and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) have said they want all of the ObamaCare taxes repealed in a healthcare bill.



An article by Sen. Rand Paul titled "Exclusive: Senate GOP Decides to Keep ObamaCare" was posted at breitbart.com on July 12, 2017. Following is the article.

I miss the old days, when Republicans stood for repealing Obamacare. Republicans across the country and every member of my caucus campaigned on repeal—often declaring they would tear out Obamacare "root and branch!"

What happened?

Now too many Republicans are falling all over themselves to stuff hundreds of billions of taxpayers' dollars into a bill that doesn't repeal Obamacare and feeds Big Insurance a huge bailout.

Obamacare regulations? Still here. Taxes? Many still in place, totaling hundreds of billions of dollars.

Insurance company bailouts? Those, too. Remember when Republicans complained about Obamacare's risk corridors? Remember when we called the corridors nothing more than insurance company bailouts?

I remember when one prominent GOP candidate during a presidential debate explicitly called out the Obamacare risk corridors as a bailout to insurance companies. Does anyone else?

Now, the Senate GOP plan being put forward is chock full of insurance bailout money—to the tune of nearly \$200 billion. Republicans, present company excluded, now support the idea of lowering your insurance premium by giving a subsidy to the insurance company.

Remarkable. If the GOP now supports an insurance stabilization fund to lower insurance prices, maybe they now support a New Car stabilization fund to lower the price of cars. Or maybe the GOP would support an iPhone stabilization fund to lower the price of phones.

The possibilities are limitless once you accept that the federal government should subsidize prices. I remember when Republicans favored the free choice of the marketplace.

The Senate Obamacare bill does not repeal Obamacare. I want to repeat that so everyone realizes why I'll vote "no" as it stands now:

The Senate Obamacare bill does not repeal Obamacare. Not even close.

In fact, the Senate GOP bill codifies and likely expands many aspects of Obamacare.

The Senate Obamacare-lite bill codifies a federal entitlement to insurance. With the Senate GOP bill, Republicans, for the first time, will signal that they favor a key aspect of Obamacare—federal taxpayer funding of private insurance purchases.

The bill will transfer billions of dollars to people who will then transfer billions of dollars to insurance companies. What a great business model—encourage the federal government to use taxpayer money to buy a private company's product. Great business model, that is, if you are Big Insurance. Remarkable.

The Senate Obamacare-lite bill does what the Democrats forgot to do—appropriate billions for Obamacare's cost-sharing reductions, aka subsidies. Really? Republicans are going to fund Obamacare subsidies that the Democrats forgot to fund?

Doesn't sound much like repeal to me. One might even argue it's worse than Obamacare-lite because it actually creates a giant superfund to bail out the insurance companies—something even the Democrats feared to do.

I was first elected in the heady days of the Tea Party Tidal Wave, when tens of thousands of citizens gathered on the central city lawn to protest Big Government, Big Debt, and a government takeover of health care.

This citizenry won in four elections. Each time, the GOP establishment told conservatives, "We can't repeal Obamacare until we have all three branches of government." Finally, in 2016, that came to pass. Republicans now control all three branches of government.

And . . . the best that is offered is Obamacare-lite: keeping the Obamacare subsidies, keeping some of the Obamacare taxes, creating a giant insurance bailout superfund, and keeping most of the Obamacare regulations.

Shame. Shame on many in the GOP for promising repeal and instead affirming, keeping, and, in some cases, expanding Obamacare. What a shame.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Minimum Wage Cruelty" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on July 12, 2017. Following is the article.

There are political movements to push the federal minimum hourly wage to \$15. Raising the minimum wage has popular support among Americans. Their reasons include fighting poverty, preventing worker exploitation and providing a living wage. For the most part, the intentions behind the support for raising the minimum wage are decent. But when we evaluate public policy, the effect of the policy is far more important than intentions. So let's examine the effects of increases in minimum wages.

The average wage for a cashier is around \$10 an hour, about \$21,000 a year. That's no great shakes, but it's an honest job for full- or part-time workers and retirees wanting to earn some extra cash.

In anticipation of a \$15-an-hour wage becoming federal law, many firms are beginning the automation process to economize on their labor usage.

Panera Bread, a counter-serve cafe chain, anticipates replacing most of its cashiers with kiosks. McDonald's is rolling out self-service kiosks that allow customers to order and pay for their food without ever having to interact with a human. Momentum Machines has developed a meat-flipping robot, which can turn out 360 hamburgers an hour. These and other measures are direct responses to rising labor costs and expectations of higher minimum wages.

Here's my question to supporters of higher minimum wages: How compassionate is it to create legislation that destroys an earning opportunity?

Again, making \$21,000 a year as a cashier is no great shakes, but it's better than going on welfare, needing unemployment compensation or idleness. Why would anybody work for \$21,000 a year if he had a higher-paying alternative?

Obviously, the \$21,000-a-year job is his best known opportunity. How compassionate is it to call for a government policy that destroys a person's best opportunity? I say it's cruel.

San Francisco might give us some evidence for what a \$15 minimum wage does.

According to the East Bay Times, about 60 restaurants around the Bay Area closed between September and January. A recent study by Michael Luca of Harvard Business School and Dara Lee Luca of Mathematica Policy Research calculated that for every \$1 hike in the minimum hourly wage, there is a 14 percent increase in the likelihood that a restaurant rated three and one-half stars on Yelp will go out of business.

Fresno Bee reporter Jeremy Bagott says that even some of San Francisco's best restaurants fall prey to higher minimum wages. One saw its profit margins fall from 8.5 percent in 2012 to 1.5 percent by 2015 (<http://tinyurl.com/y6wy3gne>). Most restaurants are thought to require profit margins between 3 and 5 percent to survive.

Some think that it's greed that motivates businessmen to seek substitutes for labor, such as kiosks, as wages rise. But don't blame businessmen; just look in the mirror. Suppose both McDonald's and Burger King are faced with higher labor costs as a result of higher minimum wages.

McDonald's lowers its labor costs by installing kiosks and laying off workers, but Burger King decides to not automate but instead keep the same amount of labor. To cover its higher labor costs, Burger King must charge higher prices for its meals, whereas McDonald's gets by while charging lower prices. Which restaurant do you think people will patronize? I'm guessing McDonald's. What customers want is an important part of a company's decision-making.

But there are other actors to whom companies are beholden. They are the companies' investors, who are looking for returns on their investments. If one company responds appropriately to higher labor costs, it will produce a higher investor return than one that does not. That means "buy" signals for the stock of a company that responds properly and "sell" signals for the stock of one that does not, as well as possible outside takeover attempts for the latter.

The best way to help low-wage workers earn higher wages is to make them more productive, and that's not accomplished simply by saying they are more productive by mandating higher wages.



An editorial by Michelle Malkin titled "The Crisis in America's Crime Labs" was posted at townhall.com on July 12, 2017. Following is the article.

Junk science endangers lives. Forensic junk science in the hands of overzealous prosecutors, ignorant police detectives and reckless experts threatens liberty.

There is a crisis in America's government-run crime labs—and it's not just the result of a few rogue operators. The problem is long-festering and systemic.

In April, Massachusetts state crime lab chemist Annie Dookhan made national headlines after investigations and lawsuits over her misconduct prompted the state's Supreme Judicial Court to order the largest dismissal of criminal convictions in U.S. history.

Prosecutors were forced to dismiss a stunning 21,000-plus drug cases after Dookhan admitted to forging signatures, misleading investigators and purposely contaminating drug samples en masse over nearly a decade. Dookhan pleaded guilty to dozens of charges of obstruction of justice, perjury and tampering with evidence. Hundreds of defendants have had their convictions tossed on appeal.

Despite a district judge concluding that her actions were "nothing short of catastrophic," Dookhan served a measly three years in prison before being released last spring.

Another Massachusetts state crime lab worker, Sonja Farak, abused her position to pilfer and ingest the drugs she was supposed to be testing over an eight-year period. Instead of cleaning up, two former assistant attorney generals covered up for Farak and misled a judge who last month dismissed several of the cases tainted by the narcotics-addicted lab worker. Upwards of 10,000 prosecutions may eventually be overturned.

The fraudster's fate? Crackhead and meth junkie Farak received a mere 18-month jail sentence for snorting the evidence, plus 5 years' probation. The two assistant AGs left their jobs for higher-paying positions in government.

Law journals and scientific publications are filled with similar horror stories that have spread from the New York City medical examiner's office and Nassau County, N.Y.'s police department forensic evidence bureau to the crime labs of West Virginia, Harris County, Texas, North Carolina and jurisdictions in nearly 20 other states.

It's the wrongfully prosecuted and convicted who suffer the heaviest deprivations—and taxpayers who must foot the astronomical bill for all the costs and damages incurred by crime lab corruptocrats and their enablers.

As I've been chronicling in my newspaper columns and CRTV.com investigative reports, many state crime labs and police departments are particularly ill-equipped and inadequately trained to interpret DNA evidence, especially "touch" or "trace" DNA—minute amounts of DNA of unknown origin often transferred through incidental contact—which has resulted in monstrous miscarriages of justice against innocent people.

The aura of infallibility conferred on crime lab analysts by "CSI"-style TV shows exacerbates the problem when juries place undue weight on indeterminate DNA evidence of little to no probative value. Just last week, North Carolina's Mark Carver, who was convicted of murdering a college student based on dubious touch DNA that was likely the result of investigators' contamination, won a new court date for a hearing that may set him free.

Costly errors and gross misconduct will continue as long as politicized prosecutors operate with a “win at all costs” agenda and stubbornly refuse to admit their failures. Dark history seems to be repeating itself at the Oklahoma City Police Department, home of the late forensic faker Joyce Gilchrist. Known as “Black Magic,” Gilchrist conjured mountains of phony DNA evidence out of whole cloth in collaboration with an out-of-control district attorney over two ruinous decades.

Gilchrist, whose tainted testimony sent 11 inmates to their deaths, passed away two years ago unpunished and unrepentant.

Now, nearly a quarter-century after Gilchrist’s misconduct was first exposed, Oklahoma City has been rocked by secret hearings held two weeks ago in the case of former Oklahoma City police officer Daniel Holtzclaw. He was convicted in 2015 on multiple sexual assaults after being railroaded by incompetent and biased police detectives and a DA’s office more concerned about appeasing the social justice mob than seeking the truth.

My investigation of Holtzclaw’s case helped publicize the flawed, sloppy testimony by OCPD crime lab analyst Elaine Taylor and assistant district attorney Gayland Gieger, who misled jurors with false assertions about trace skin cell DNA tied to one accuser found on Holtzclaw’s pants—the only indirect forensic evidence in the case. One of the key attendees at the secret hearings last month was Taylor’s OCPD crime lab supervisor, Campbell Ruddock.

Taylor and Gieger failed to fully inform the jury of unknown male DNA found on Holtzclaw’s pants, as well as DNA mixtures from multiple unknown female and male contributors, which clearly supported the hypothesis of innocent, nonsexual DNA indirect transfer.

But Gieger baselessly claimed the DNA came from vaginal fluid (when Taylor conducted no such confirmatory tests for body fluids nor used an alternate light source). Gieger recklessly yoked the phony DNA “smoking gun” in one accuser’s case to all of the accusers’ allegations. At least two jurors publicly stated after trial that the shoddy DNA evidence persuaded them of Holtzclaw’s collective guilt.

Secrecy about the crime lab crisis is a toxic recipe for more wrongful convictions. The solution lies in greater transparency, external scrutiny, stiffer criminal penalties and real financial consequences for forensic fraudsters and fakers. It’s time to incentivize more whistleblowers, instead of more destructive witch hunts.



An article by Rick Moran titled “New York City Cops Turn Their Back on De Blasio During Funeral for Slain Officer” was posted at americanthinker.com on July 12, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

The massive disrespect shown by New York city mayor Bill de Blasio for the city policemen and women came back to bite hizzoner during the funeral for assassinated officer Miosotis Familia.

Familia was gunned down while sitting in her police car last week. Instead of attending the officer's wake, de Blasio jetted off to Hamburg, where he was the keynote speaker at an anti-capitalist, anti-American protest.

Yesterday, while thousands of police officers paid their final respects to Familia, Mayor de Blasio delivered a eulogy. During his speech, hundreds of cops turned their backs on the mayor to protest his lack of respect for the police department.

It wasn't the first time New York City's finest made such a protest. Two years ago, at the funeral of slain officer Wenjian Liu, hundreds of police also made their feelings known.

New York Daily News:

■ The blue rage was spurred by the mayor's excursion to Germany to join protesters at the G20 summit one day after last Wednesday's execution of 12-year NYPD vet Familia.

■ Photos showed hundreds of police officers standing on the Grand Concourse with their backs to the World Changers Church as the mayor's speech was heard via the public address system.

■ "The mayor is the compass for the City of New York," Patrick Lynch, head of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said before the funeral. "And unfortunately, when a police officer got killed, his compass led him to Germany rather than here on the Grand Concourse.

The protest two years ago was over remarks de Blasio made in solidarity with Black Lives Matter:

■ De Blasio has taken heat from police officers for his ambivalence over Black Lives Matter protests, as well as remarks he made in the wake of the Eric Garner incident.

■ At the time, de Blasio said he warned his multi-racial son, Dante, about how to deal with police if confronted.

■ Two years after cops ignored de Blasio's speech during the funeral of slain Officer Wenjian Liu, the police again silently made their feelings known.

This is a mayor who has taken away some critical law enforcement tools that kept the violent crime rate down in the city and helped protect the lives of officers. He has shown by his words and actions that he doesn't value the work of city police as most of his predecessors have.

But is a funeral really the place to make a statement opposing the mayor? I think the disrespect he showed the Familia family by flying to Hamburg while they mourned their loss deserved some sort of response from the police. In that sense, de Blasio richly deserved the disrespect of officers.



Isaiah 55:6-11—“Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”