

# Eye on the World

## *Jan. 28, 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 Jan. 28, 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 Associated Press article by Matthew Lee and Richard Lardner titled "US Sent \$221 Million to Palestinians in Obama's Last Hours" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 23, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Officials say the Obama administration in its waning hours defied Republican opposition and quietly released \$221 million to the Palestinian Authority that GOP members of Congress had been blocking.

A State Department official and several congressional aides said the outgoing administration formally notified Congress it would spend the money Friday [Jan. 20] morning. The official said former Secretary of State John Kerry had informed some lawmakers of the move shortly before he left the State Department for the last time Thursday. The aides said written notification dated Jan. 20 was sent to Congress just hours before Donald Trump took the oath of office.

In addition to the \$221 million for the Palestinians, the Obama administration also told Congress on Friday it was going ahead with the release of another \$6 million in foreign affairs spending, including \$4 million for climate change programs and \$1.25 million for U.N. organizations, the congressional aides said. The aides and the State Department official weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity.

Congress had initially approved the Palestinian funding in budget years 2015 and 2016, but at least two GOP lawmakers—Ed Royce of California, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Kay Granger of Texas, who sits on the House Appropriations Committee—had placed holds on it over moves the Palestinian Authority had taken to seek membership in international organizations.

Congressional holds are generally respected by the executive branch but are not legally binding after funds have been allocated.



An article by Alex Lockie and Associated Press titled “The Trump Administration Has Frozen Obama’s Quiet Attempt to Send \$221 Million to Palestine” was posted at [businessinsider.com](http://businessinsider.com) on Jan. 25, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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The State Department is reviewing a last-minute decision by former Secretary of State John Kerry to send \$221 million dollars to the Palestinians late last week over the objections of congressional Republicans.

The department said Tuesday it would look at the payment, one of the Obama administration’s final acts in office, and might make adjustments to ensure it comports with the Trump administration’s priorities.

Kerry formally notified Congress that State would release the money Friday morning, just hours before President Donald Trump’s inauguration.

“I was tracking President Obama’s 11th-hour moves on the Palestinians, and this issue never came up once . . . Most analysts and observers didn’t think Obama would or could do this,” Dr. Jonathan Schanzer of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies told Business Insider.

Congress had initially approved the Palestinian funding in budget years 2015 and 2016, with the US Agency for International Development sending the Palestinians \$355 million in 2015.

But at least two GOP lawmakers Ed Royce of California, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Kay Granger of Texas, who sits on the House Appropriations Committee had placed holds on the funds as the Palestinian Authority had pursued “a unilateral tract towards statehood and they were not trying to work with Israel,” said Schanzer.



A Reuters article titled “German Police Search Homes in Crackdown on Far-Right Extremists” was posted at [reuters.com](http://reuters.com) on Jan. 25, 2017. Following is the article.

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About 200 German police searched a dozen homes in six states on Wednesday as part of an investigation into a far-right extremist group suspected of planning armed attacks against police, Jews and asylum seekers, the chief federal prosecutor's office said.

Two of seven suspects were detained and weapons, munitions and explosives were found during the raids, Frauke Koehler, a spokeswoman for the office, told reporters.

A spokesman for the German Justice Ministry said the raids underscored the government's determination to crack down on ultra-right extremists, whose numbers are rising across Germany.

"This is an important signal against the far-right extremist scene in Germany which shows that our investigative agencies are vigilant and will proceed with great resolve against extremists," he told a regular government news conference.

The prosecutor's office said the early morning raids included searches of the homes of six people believed to have founded the new group, and that of a seventh person who is suspected of helping the group obtain supplies.

"The goal of today's search measures was to obtain further evidence of the actual creation of a formal group, as well as the alleged planned criminal acts and any potential tools," it said in a statement.

It said the suspects were largely connected via social media and were believed to have begun planning armed attacks in the spring of 2016.

German officials said the raids were directed against people associated with the "Reichsbuerger," or Citizens of the Reich, movement, which rejects the modern German state as an illegitimate successor to Nazi-era Germany.

Koehler said a certain ideological closeness to the Reichsbuerger was perceptible but it was necessary to check whether there were actually such connections and how close they were.

Germany's BfV domestic intelligence agency put the group under observation in November, weeks after one of its members shot dead a policeman during a raid at his home.

The agency warned last year, following the arrival in Germany of more than a million migrants, that ultra-right extremists—many with links to groups in Europe and the United States—were increasingly ready to commit acts of violence.

The BfV also called for action to halt the emergence of what it called "right-wing terrorist structures."

The number of far-right extremists seen at risk of committing violent acts jumped to 12,100 in 2016 from 11,800 in 2015, according to a spokeswoman for the interior ministry.

German authorities broke up a suspected ultra-right militant group known as “Oldschool Society” last year.

Wednesday’s raids occurred in Berlin and the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate and Sachsen-Anhalt.



A Reuters article titled “China to Crack Down Further on ‘Cult’ Activities” was posted at reuters.com on Jan. 25, 2017. Following is the article.

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China will crack down further on what it calls “cults” with a new judicial interpretation released on Wednesday mandating harsh punishments for groups proselytising to government officials or children or linking up with foreign groups.

China’s officially atheist Communist Party does not tolerate challenges to its rule. It prizes social stability and religious activities must be state sanctioned.

Authorities have gone after what they view as cults, which have multiplied in recent years, and demonstrations have been put down with force and some sect leaders executed.

The judicial interpretation, release by the Supreme People’s Court and state prosecutor, list seven areas for which offenders will face tough penalties, including carrying out cult activities in public or trying to recruit children or state bureaucrats.

In cases considered less serious, where adherents repent and leave the cult, or where they have been coerced into joining a cult, there is an option for punishment not to be imposed, the interpretation states.

China routinely denies accusations from rights groups and Western governments that it seeks to restrict religious activities, but says they must be conducted in accordance with the law.

In September, a court jailed members of a group called Mentuhui, or “Disciples Sect,” for causing deaths, organising the group and illegally collecting money.



An article titled “Pope Axes Knights of Malta Chief in Condoms Row” was posted at Breitbart.com on Jan. 25, 2017. Following is the article.

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The head of the Knights of Malta has resigned on the request of Pope Francis, the Order said Wednesday, ending a bitter power battle linked to a row over condoms.

The resignation of Grand Master Matthew Festing followed a month-long stand-off that had become a test of the reforming pope’s authority over rebellious Church conservatives.

"The Grand Master was received on Tuesday by Pope Francis who requested his resignation, which the Grand Master agreed to," a spokesman for the Order told AFP.

Confirming Festing's departure, the Vatican said Francis had "expressed his appreciation and recognition for (Festing's) loyalty and devotion to the successor to St Peter (the pope) and his readiness to humbly act in the interests of the Order and the Church."

In theory, Briton Festing was in the job for life. His resignation has to be approved by the Order's sovereign council, which has been convened for Saturday.

The unprecedented and very public dispute between the Vatican and the Knights was seen by Holy See watchers as a proxy war between Church liberals and conservatives, led by American cardinal Raymond Burke.

The row erupted last month when Francis appointed a five-strong team to examine the circumstances in which the Order's number three was forced out of his job.

The Knights, a Church-linked charity body descended from the crusaders of the Middle Ages, refused to cooperate.

### **Myanmar prostitutes**

They said the December dismissal of Grand Chancellor Albrecht von Boeselager was an internal affair.

Festing subsequently claimed in a leaked letter that three of the Vatican's appointees had a conflict of interest because of links to a Geneva-based fund in which the Order also had a stake.

That blatant defiance of papal authority appears to have been the last straw.

Von Boeselager's dismissal had been seen by some as being the result of him being too liberal for Burke, who has acted as the Vatican's liaison with the Order since being sidelined from more important roles by Francis.

Others said the issue was whether the Vatican was properly kept in the loop and whether Von Boeselager, who has a brother who is said to be close to Francis, was wrongly informed the pope had approved his sacking.

Burke is a prominent conservative figure who has been outspoken in his criticism of Francis's efforts to reform Church teaching on questions related to the family, marriage and divorce.

### **Rebel cardinal**

Reports in the specialist Catholic press suggested Von Boeselager was targeted because Order charities he oversaw had taken part in a programme distributing free condoms to prostitutes and others in Myanmar to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Von Boeselager had claimed that he stopped the Order's involvement as soon as he became aware of it and refused to resign. Burke reportedly insisted he had to go.

Conservatives say any use of condoms violates Church teaching that considers all forms of contraception to be an unacceptable barrier to life.

Francis and his predecessor Benedict XVI have both adopted a more flexible stance, signalling that the use of condoms can be acceptable in circumstances where their use preserves life, such as in AIDS-ravaged communities.

The Order of Malta was founded in Jerusalem in 1048 as a community of hospitals caring for the sick.

It was recognised by the pope in 1113, and now operates in 120 countries, managing hospitals and clinics, with 13,500 members and 100,000 employees and volunteers.

Burke was one of four cardinals who wrote to Francis last year openly questioning the pontiff's revision of Church guidance to allow priests to decide on a case-by-case basis whether divorced and remarried believers should be able to receive communion.

Under the doctrine of the indissolubility of marriage, Catholics who divorce and remarry are deemed to be living in sin.



An article by Justin Fishel titled "7 Major Foreign Policy Challenges Facing President Donald Trump" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 23, 2017. Following is the article.

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The 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, has inherited a number of daunting foreign policy challenges spanning the globe from the Middle East through East Asia.

Trump tweeted this morning that "THE WORK BEGINS!" yet many of his top foreign policy positions have yet to be confirmed by the Senate, including CIA Director and Secretary of State.

The White House website says Trump will execute an "American first foreign policy . . . focused on American interests and American national security." The White House policy will center on "peace through strength," made possible in part, it says, by pursuing "the highest level of military readiness."

ABC News looked at seven of the most challenging foreign policy issues facing the new administration, and what President Trump said about each over the past several months.

## 1. ISIS

The White House announced today that for this new commander-in-chief, defeating ISIS and eliminating the direct threat it poses to Americans at home and abroad will be the “highest priority.”

Just in the last two days, the United States military conducted two separate rounds of airstrikes in Libya and Syria its says killed nearly 200 ISIS and al-Qaeda militants. The U.S. Department of State has a standing “worldwide travel caution” for all Americans traveling abroad, which warns about the continuing threat of terror attacks.

“In the past year, major terrorist attacks occurred in Belgium, France, Germany, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, Indonesia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh among others,” the State Department warning says. “Authorities believe there is a continued likelihood of attacks against U.S., Western, and coalition partner interests throughout the world, especially in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and Asia.”

The new administration will be under enormous pressure to finish the fights to retake ISIS strongholds in Mosul, Iraq, and Raqqa, Syria—and could easily be faced with a shift in enemy tactics, an insurgency and a protracted fight that could force the White House to make difficult decisions about whether to commit more U.S. forces on the ground.

Guiding stable government institutions to fill the vacuum left by ISIS and encouraging a successful political resolution to the five-year civil war in Syria, ideally including the removal of brutal Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, are also enormous challenges.

The refugee crisis caused by both the war in Syria and the violent tactics of ISIS is another pressing issue. Amnesty International estimates the conflict in Syria has forced more than 4.5 million refugees from Syria who are now living in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. The Trump administration will need to work with world powers to manage that refugee flow to prevent more humanitarian suffering and potential they have to destabilize governments that take them in.

What Trump has said: Trump has not presented a clear strategy to defeat ISIS, often claiming that public strategy discussion would tip off the enemy. He has said, though, that he would fight ISIS aggressively.

Yesterday, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer announced that the Trump administration would be keeping the State Department’s top counter-ISIS planner, Brett McGurk, to ensure continuity.

But in regards to the refugee crisis, Trump rejected calls from former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton to increase the number of refugees from Syria and Iraq admitted into the U.S. He instead proposed banning Muslim immigration to the U.S. and later called for “extreme vetting” of applicants.

## 2. Russia

The U.S.-Russian relationship is at its lowest point since the Cold War. President Trump has said a closer relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin would be an asset to the United States. But much of his incoming administration has maintained that Russia needs to be confronted for its aggression, including for its annexation of Crimea and military incursions into Eastern Ukraine, hacking during the 2016 presidential election and backing Syrian dictator Bashar Assad and Russia's brutal aerial bombing campaign to assist his efforts.

Unprecedented Russian hacking into the Democratic National Committee also highlights the enormous security threat posed to critical components of the U.S. government, infrastructure, defense technology and many other government operations that rely heavily on cybertechnology.

On its website, Trump's White House announced it "will make it a priority to develop defensive and offensive cyber capabilities at our U.S. Cyber Command, and recruit the best and brightest Americans to serve in this crucial area."

Russia's military intervention inside Syria has effectively set up a proxy war with the U.S. and the rebel forces it backs. The U.S. has blamed Russia for its subsequent breakdown of cease-fire negotiations and the devastating siege of Aleppo, Syria.

On Monday, the Russians will hold peace talks in Astana, Kazakhstan. It's unclear if anyone from the Trump administration will attend.

And finally, Putin's war in Ukraine and illegal annexation of Crimea has sparked fears that he's seeking to reclaim Soviet-era borders and eventually could bait the NATO alliance into a military conflict.

What Trump has said: Trump's recent comments on Russia have so far defied the conventional wisdom of either party and have drawn criticism from both sides.

Trump has not condemned the Russian hacks into the U.S. election process and has said he "would be looking at" the possibility of lifting sanctions against Russia tied to its illegal military annexation of Crimea, which the U.S. government has refused to accept.

He publicly doubted the intelligence community's assessment that Russia hacked the DNC, compared them to Nazis and blamed them for leaking false information about his ties to Russia.

Rather than stand against a potential revival of Soviet expansionism, critics say Trump seems to be embracing it. He has described the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)—considered the first line of defense against Russian expansionism—as "obsolete," while also suggesting he may not honor the organization's most sacred covenant of mutual defense.



During his confirmation hearing Trump's pick for secretary of state, former Exxon Mobile Chief Rex Tillerson, was questioned about his ties to Russia, where he did deals with the state-run oil industry and developed a personal relationship with President Vladimir Putin. Tillerson denied lobbying against Russian sanctions brought on by its aggression in Ukraine and said that sanctions are a "powerful tool."

In addition to saying the U.S. would benefit from a friendlier relationship with Putin, Trump has also praised him on Twitter recently, calling him "very smart" for deciding not to retaliate when President Obama kicked out Russian intelligence offers in response to the election hack.

### **3. North Korea**

In September, North Korea conducted its largest ever nuclear test, detonating a bomb that analysts detected had a yield equivalent to 10 kilotons of TNT. It was the reclusive country's second nuclear test this year and its fifth test since 2006.

The United States is now more concerned than ever that North Korea is closer to its goal of miniaturizing a nuclear weapon that can be placed on long-range missiles, a move that could destabilize the region and the world. Just this week a South Korean news agency reported the North Koreans announced they're preparing to test mobile-launched ICMB's, but U.S. intelligence officials would not confirm those reports.

Unlike with Iran, the U.S. has not been able to negotiate an agreement on nuclear issues. The U.S. and North Korea have virtually no diplomatic relations and China is considered the only global power with any leverage over the regime.

Considering that three of North Korea's five nuclear tests have occurred during the rule of Kim Jong-un, it's clear the dictator is undeterred by the suffocating economic sanctions imposed by foreign nations. Though China's Foreign Ministry has criticized the North Korean test and urged international dialogue, recent tensions between the United States and China over the South China Sea could suppress Chinese support for taking a more aggressive approach to the North Korean regime.

What Trump has said: In response to North Korea's latest nuclear test, Trump's spokesman Kellyanne Conway said that if Trump is elected, North Korea will know the Americans "aren't messing around."

In January, after the North said it was close to being able to firing off a nuclear weapons that could reach the United States, Trump tweeted "It won't happen," which has been interpreted as a possible "red line" for the Trump administration.

In May Trump said he would be open to the idea of allowing North Korea's neighbors, including U.S. allies South Korea and Japan, to acquire their own nuclear arsenals—a move that would effectively nuclearize the entire region and negate the cost and justification for stationing U.S. troops in the region.

"We cannot afford to be the military and the police for the world," he said at the time.

#### **4. Climate change**

A report released in November by the United Nations World Meteorological Organization said that 2011-2015 was the hottest five-year period on record and that the climate has an "increasingly visible human footprint," according to The Associated Press.

One year ago, nearly 200 nations signed a global pact, the Paris Agreement, to combat climate change with the shared goal of preventing global temperatures from rising more than 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The U.S., along with other developed countries, will have to make good on commitments to fund new low-carbon emissions systems in countries that are complaining that the finances are not coming as promised.

But the challenges on the road to achieving this shared goal are vast—and they begin with the United States. Already, legal cases in the U.S. Supreme Court have stalled President Obama's plan to phase out coal power plants as part of his "Clean Power Plan." The delay could take years as the cases brought by various states play out.

Meeting the goals outlined in the Paris climate agreement will take significant effort both domestically and abroad.

Trump's pick to be the head of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Scott Pruitt, said during his nomination hearing he did not believe climate change is a "hoax" as Trump has previously claimed, but said he was in favor of rolling back environmental regulations he claims have hurt American industries.

What Trump has said: In May of this year, Donald Trump said he would "cancel" U.S. participation in the Paris Agreement.

"Any regulation that's outdated, unnecessary, bad for workers or contrary to the national interest will be scrapped and scrapped completely," Trump said. "We're going to do all this while taking proper regard for rational environmental concerns."

As mentioned, Trump has also tweeted that global warming is a "hoax" perpetrated by the Chinese.

While Tillerson has acknowledged climate change is a problem, ExxonMobil came under fire at its shareholders' meeting last year for rejecting resolutions that would have pushed the company's resources toward renewable energy, according to the Washington Post.

#### **5. Turkey**

Turkey's proximity to the conflict in Syria, ownership of a military base leased by the United States, failed attempt at a military coup, and resentment of

U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria and Iraq are just some of the contributing factors to its increasingly fraught relationship with the United States.

Turkey, a NATO ally, is also accusing the United States of harboring a person that its leaders say is the equivalent of what Osama bin Laden was to the U.S. That was how the Turkish Minister of Justice described Fethullah Gulen, the cleric living in Pennsylvania and the man Turkey's government blames for inciting that failed coup this past summer. Turkey is insisting Gulen be extradited to Turkey, but the U.S. Justice Department has suggested Turkey has failed to present sufficient evidence of wrongdoing.

The Gulen movement is designated as a terrorist organization inside Turkey and Turkish President Recep Erdogan has been using the failed coup as an excuse to purge all his opposition. Disturbing accusations of imprisoning teachers and journalists and committing torture threaten the state's democracy have forced the U.S. to distance itself from the country, which has been a critical ally in the past. The tensions have created a pathway for Turkey to form partnerships with adversaries of the U.S.

Meanwhile, the U.S. relies on Turkish border control, Turkish armed forces and its military base in the fight against ISIS. A diplomatic rift with Turkey could damage U.S. efforts, though both Turkey and the U.S. have insisted they don't want that to happen.

What Trump has said: In a campaign interview with The New York Times last July, Trump applauded the Turkish president and the Turkish people for suppressing the failed coup attempt. He also said he thinks "Turkey can do a lot against ISIS, and I would hope that if I'm dealing with them, they will do much more about ISIS."

Asked about Erdogan jailing tens of thousands of people and Turkey's problems with civil liberties, Trump said, "I think it's very hard for us to get involved in other countries when we don't know what we are doing and we can't see straight in our own country."

## **6. China**

President Trump faces three potential threats from China. First, he's said he will label China a currency manipulator and flirted with a idea of increasing tariffs. This could set off a trade war and, depending on China's response, could create economic problems on a global scale.

Second, Trump has already taken the provocative step of questioning America's One China policy, which recognizes the island of Taiwan as a part of China. After winning the election, then President-elect held an unprecedented phone call with the Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, which he says was initiated by Taiwan, that prompted the Obama administration to reaffirm its stance. U.S. policy does allow, however, for the sale of weapons to Taiwan, which it could use in a potential military conflict with the mainland.

And Third, Trump will need to decide how to confront China's militarization of disputed islands in the South China sea and its claim to Island in the East China Sea. Tillerson has said China's military actions are illegal, likening them to the taking of Crimea by Ukraine, and said the U.S. should send a signal that their action are "not going to be allowed."

Chinese state media responded by saying the Trump administration risks "large-scale war" if it attempts to intervene.

## 7. Iran

Trump and a number of his incoming cabinet members have suggested the new administration either ought to abandon or renegotiate the Iran nuclear deal. Vice President Pence has said he would "rip up the Iran deal." But Trump's nominee for Ambassador to the United Nations, Gov. Nikki Haley, suggested during her confirmation that the U.S. would strictly enforce the terms—which many see as a threat to dismantle it.

For instance, if the U.S. were to accuse Iran of violating the deal, sanctions could snap back into place and the deal could fall apart. If Trump is unable to negotiate a new deal, Iran would likely return to making a nuclear weapons, which even President Obama drew as a red line. Without a nuclear deal, Trump would have no option other than military force to dismantle Iran's nuclear program.



An article by Josh Rogin titled "The State Department's Entire Senior Administration Team Just Resigned" was posted at [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com) on Jan. 26, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's job running the State Department just got considerably more difficult. The entire senior level of management officials resigned Wednesday, part of an ongoing mass exodus of senior Foreign Service officers who don't want to stick around for the Trump era.

Tillerson was actually inside the State Department's headquarters in Foggy Bottom on Wednesday, taking meetings and getting the lay of the land. I reported Wednesday morning that the Trump team was narrowing its search for his No. 2, and that it was looking to replace the State Department's long-serving undersecretary for management, Patrick Kennedy. Kennedy, who has been in that job for nine years, was actively involved in the transition and was angling to keep that job under Tillerson, three State Department officials told me.

Then suddenly on Wednesday afternoon, Kennedy and three of his top officials resigned unexpectedly, four State Department officials confirmed. Assistant Secretary of State for Administration Joyce Anne Barr, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Michele Bond and Ambassador Gentry

O. Smith, director of the Office of Foreign Missions, followed him out the door. All are career Foreign Service officers who have served under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Kennedy will retire from the Foreign Service at the end of the month, officials said. The other officials could be given assignments elsewhere in the Foreign Service.

In addition, Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Gregory Starr retired Jan. 20, and the director of the Bureau of Overseas Building Operations, Lydia Muniz, departed the same day. That amounts to a near-complete housecleaning of all the senior officials that deal with managing the State Department, its overseas posts and its people.



An article by Rick Newman titled "How Big Pharma Plans to Fend Off Trump" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 25, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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When the president attacks your product, you've got a problem, Houston. Which is why the pharmaceutical industry is trying to craft a warmer, fuzzier image.

Donald Trump complained repeatedly about high drug prices while campaigning last year, and during a press conference right before taking office he said drug companies are "getting away with murder."

He had plenty of material to work with. The big controversy over the price of the anti-allergy Epipen, which rose 600% in less than a decade, caused outrage last year. Before that, Turing Pharmaceuticals drew flak for raising the price of an anti-parasite drug by 5,500%, as did Valeant by hiking the price of two heart drugs by 700% or more after acquiring the rights to them.

The bad publicity has prompted the drug industry to launch a costly new ad blitz highlighting scientific breakthroughs sponsored by drugmakers and ways prescription drugs contribute to better health. "Let's change the system so people pay for value," Bob Hugin, executive chairman at biotech firm Celgene (CELG) and a spokesman for the industry, tells Yahoo Finance in the video above. "Our drugs do that and we can do that better."

The drug industry faces several major risks with Trump in the White House. Current law prohibits the government from negotiating discounts with drugmakers, for billions of dollars of drugs purchased under Medicare. Trump could push for new legislation giving the feds more clout. Trump also plans to replace the Affordable Care Act with something else, which could affect how and how much drugmakers get paid.

The price of prescription drugs rose 6.2% in 2016, according to government data. That's about three times the overall rate of inflation. But some consumers feel a more painful sting for drugs that aren't covered by health insur-

ance or require big co-pays or other out-of-pocket expenses. People without insurance can face stratospheric costs if they need life-saving, brand-name drugs for which there's no competition.

Hugin advocates "value-based" drug pricing in which insurers, drug-makers and patients would negotiate prices based on how effective a given drug is for a particular condition. That would require gobs of new data, providing better insights into what works, than we currently have. "We want a rigorous, comprehensive review of how we deliver healthcare," Hugin says. "Put the patient at the center, make sure the patient has access to the kind of healthcare the patient deserves, and do it in the most cost-effective manner."

Drugmakers, not surprisingly, would also like to see insurance policies that leave patients with better coverage for pharmaceuticals and fewer out-of-pocket costs. They'd like a faster approval process at the Food and Drug Administration for new drugs and generics, and simpler rules regarding how they must report prices to the government. And they'd like more transparency by insurers ahead of time regarding which drugs they're likely to cover and how much they're willing to pay.

Trump hasn't weighed in on such ideas in detail, but he favors fewer regulations, more efficient government and, naturally, healthcare that's cheaper and better for patients. So Big Pharma may find Trump to be an ally in some cases. But pricing is Trump's go-to issue, and he's unlikely to cut drugmakers some slack until they give him a victory he can crow about.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Universities Cave to Snowflakes" was posted at [jewishworldreview.com](http://jewishworldreview.com) on Jan. 25, 2017. Following is the article.

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One wonders just how far spineless college administrators will go when it comes to caving in to the demands of campus snowflakes. For those unfamiliar with the term "snowflakes," it is increasingly being used to characterize college students easily traumatized by criticism and politically incorrect phrases.

They demand safe spaces and trigger warnings so as not to be upset by views that challenge their own. Snowflakes feel as though they must be protected against words, events and deeds that do not fully conform to their extremely limited, narrow-minded beliefs built on sheer delusion. This might explain their behavior in the wake of Donald Trump's trouncing of Hillary Clinton.

Generosity demands that we forgive these precious snowflakes and hope that they grow up. The real problem is with people assumed to be grown-ups—college professors and administrators who tolerate and give aid and comfort to our aberrant youth. Let's look at tiny samples of it.

To help avoid microaggressions, the University of North Carolina administration posted a notice urging staff and faculty members to avoid phrases such as “husband/boyfriend,” which they claim is heteronormative, and “Christmas vacation,” which “minimizes non-Christian spiritual rituals.”

This winter, the Oregon State University administration will treat its students to a new class that promises to teach them about how blacks have historically resisted white supremacists. Professor Dwaine Plaza, one of three instructors for the course, said the idea was inspired by Trump’s election, which he fears will take the country back to the 1960s.

The University of Maryland is hosting a series of postelection lectures on how a “commitment to white supremacy” gave Trump momentum and blaming “white America’s spiritual depravity” for his rise to power. One of the topics will be “Make America White Again? The Racial Reasoning of American Nationalism.”

At Pomona College, posters giving instructions on “how to be a (better) white ally” and stating that all white people are racist were put in the dorm rooms of new students.

Ned Staebler, Wayne State University’s vice president for economic development, i.e., fundraising, declared that President Trump is a Nazi and his supporters are comfortable with bigotry. He said, “I’ll say flatly that many of the 63 million Americans who voted for Trump did so because of his bigotry.”

In response to a claim by Ben Carson—Trump’s pick to be secretary of housing and urban development—that people have the right to display Confederate flags on private property, University of Pennsylvania professor Anthea Butler tweeted, “If only there was a ‘coon of the year’ award.” Previously, Butler informed us that God is a “white racist” and Michael Brown’s death in Ferguson, Missouri, was a “blood sacrifice.”

Wake Forest University faculty and administration seek to make the university a sanctuary campus. Campus security will refuse to follow federal laws and will stop Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents from pursuing criminals if they come onto Wake Forest property. This is nothing less than nullification of federal law. While liberals support nullification of federal immigration law, I wonder how they would respond to cities nullifying laws enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Snowflake indulgence has been fostered by the education establishment and, more recently, by federal law. One of the most popular features of Obama-care is its provision that children can remain on their parents’ health care plan until they are 26 years old. That promotes prolonged adolescence, sparing the necessity for youngsters to get out on their own.

Some have criticized my lack of sympathy for snowflakes in the wake of their emotional trauma resulting from Trump’s defeat of Clinton. Here’s my question to you: How much sympathy would you have for those 18- to 24-year-

olds who are in the military if they conducted themselves—on aircraft carriers, in nuclear submarines and in special forces—just as college snowflakes did in the wake of the Trump victory?



An article by Peter Hasson titled “Obama Refers to Himself 75 Times in Farewell Speech” was posted at [dailycaller.com](http://dailycaller.com) on Jan. 10, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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President Obama referred to himself 75 times in his farewell address Tuesday night, according to a review of his prepared remarks by The Daily Caller.

Obama heavily promoted the speech, penning a blog post about it and appearing in a promotional video in the days leading up to the address.

Obama said “I” 33 times during the speech, “my” 20 times, “me” 10 times, and “I’m” or “I’ve” 12 times.

The president made a habit of focusing large chunks of his speeches on himself during his eight years in office.

Last July, for example, he mentioned himself 45 times over the course of a speech given at a speech for the slain Dallas police officers.

In his blog post promoting the speech, Obama encouraged Americans to tune in “because, for me, it’s always been about you.”



An article by Justin Holcomb titled “Trump Said ‘America,’ ‘You,’ and ‘We’ 106 Times in Speech; Said ‘I’ Three Times” was posted at [townhall.com](http://townhall.com) on Jan. 20, 2017. Following are excerpts of the speech.

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President Donald Trump’s inauguration speech is already being labeled as one of the most transformative speeches in American history. The speech was driven by a thesis that highlighted the citizens of the United States.

Trump ripped Washington, D.C., and government officials on both sides of the aisle while praising the average American as the hero to lead the country. He only directly mentioned himself three times and mentioned Americans over 106 times.



An article by Phil McCausland, Erik Ortiz, Emmanuelle Saliba and Corky Siemaszko titled “More Than 200 Arrested in D.C. Protests on Inauguration Day” was posted at [nbcnews.com](http://nbcnews.com) on Jan. 21, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.



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President Donald Trump's Inauguration Day was marred by noisy demonstrations, shoving matches and sporadic clashes with cops that resulted in more than 200 arrests.

Three-thousand members of local, state and federal law enforcement—backed by 5,000 National Guard members and police officers from as far away as New Jersey—patrolled the streets as the evening's festivities got under way and the legions of protesters still seething over the Manhattan mogul's unexpected victory threatened more disruptions.

Acting Police Chief Peter Newsham said that by around 6:30 p.m. ET things had calmed down, but authorities were still monitoring several groups.

At the same time, police are preparing for the Women's March on Washington set for Saturday that is expected to draw 200,000 protesters a number that inaugural historian Jim Bendat said could break records.

The worst fracas on Friday [Jan. 20] erupted in Franklin Square, about a mile-and-a-half from Capitol Hill, just before Trump's swearing-in ceremony got underway, police said.

Six police officers suffered minor injuries when protesters flung bricks, trash cans and other objects, and ignited small fires, Newsham said.

Four businesses were vandalized and sustained "significant damage," he said. Also, demonstrators torched a limousine, police at the scene said.

All of the 217 people arrested on Friday were charged with rioting, Newsham said. And in some cases cops used flash-bang grenades and pepper spray to keep them from getting closer to the parade route.

Witnesses reported the demonstrators—some of them self-described "anarchists" dressed in black and wearing masks—were taunting police officers to try to get a rise out of them.

Signs read:

- "Not my president"
- "No Islamophobia"
- "Black Lives Matter"

There were anti-Trump protests in other cities Friday.

Seven people were arrested in New York City during a civil disobedience protest outside Trump Tower. "Resist from day one!" the crowd chanted.

In Chicago, protesters blocked traffic near Trump Tower and on Lake Shore Drive. The windows of at least one business was smashed, and police arrested five people as of 8:30 p.m., NBC Chicago reported.

Police in Portland, Oregon, used pepper spray on crowds attempting to cross a bridge, according to NBC affiliate KGW. Police said eggs and ice balls were thrown at officers.



An article by Andrew Romano titled "L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti: Resisting Trump Isn't Enough; Why California Has to Work With Him Too" was posted at yahoo.com on Jan. 26, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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If the "resistance" to President Trump has a headquarters, a nerve center, a ground zero, then California is it—or so the state's top politicians like to tell us.

Pretty much every day since Nov. 8 there's been yet another news story about yet another left-coast official insisting that he or she won't let Trump undercut California's progressive policies or mess with California's progressive values—or else his or her name isn't [insert name here].

"California is becoming to Mr. Trump what Texas—which is as Republican as California is Democratic—was to President Obama," the New York Times recently wrote: "a sea of defiance and a potential source of unending legal and legislative challenges."

The political journalist John Myers of the Los Angeles Times, meanwhile, put it in more colorful terms, comparing California to District 13, the heart of the anti-Capitol rebellion in "The Hunger Games."

And so you have freshman California Sen. Kamala Harris declaring that "when we have been attacked and when our ideals and fundamental ideals are being attacked, do we retreat or do we fight? I say we fight!"

You have long-serving California Gov. Jerry Brown saying, in Tuesday's State of the State address, that "California is not turning back—not now, not ever."

You have current Lt. Gov. and 2018 gubernatorial candidate Gavin Newsom announcing that "we are going to have to do our best not to coordinate and collaborate. You can't just sit back and take it from these guys."

And you have newly minted California Attorney General Xavier Becerra warning Trump that if he wants to "take on a forward-leaning state that is prepared to defend its rights and interests, then come at us."

On Nov. 9, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León released a letter vowing that California "will lead the resistance to any effort that would shred our social fabric or our Constitution"; on Jan. 4, they revealed that they had hired former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to represent them in any legal fights against the new Republican White House.

And so on.

Yet throughout the transition, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti—who once called Trump “the walking embodiment of the worst of our values”—has been more muted than most.

Where Newsom, the former mayor of San Francisco, is proud to say he was the “poster-child for sanctuary policy when Bill O’Reilly and Lou Dobbs were attacking me, almost literally, on a weekly basis,” Garcetti avoids the term “sanctuary city” altogether, saying it’s “ill-defined”—even though, for all intents and purposes, that’s exactly what Los Angeles is.

Garcetti is no less ambitious than his fellow California pols; like Newsom, Becerra, Rendon, de León and others, he is often mentioned as a contender for governor or for Dianne Feinstein’s Senate seat, should she choose to retire in 2018.

He isn’t opposed to pushing back against Trump’s agenda, either; in December, the mayor unveiled a \$10 million fund to provide legal services to immigrants who could be in danger of deportation under Trump, and when Trump on Wednesday threatened to withhold funds from cities such as Los Angeles that limit cooperation with immigration officials, Garcetti didn’t hesitate to speak out.

“Splitting up families and cutting funding to any city—especially Los Angeles, where 40% of the nation’s goods enter the U.S. at our port, and more than 80 million passengers traveled through our airport last year—puts the personal safety and economic health of our entire nation at risk,” the mayor said in a statement. “It is not the way forward for the United States.”

Yet in his first in-depth interview about Trump, Garcetti recently revealed to Yahoo News that he tends to view his city’s—and his state’s—relationship with the new president in more nuanced terms than many of his progressive peers. In November, for instance, Garcetti reached out to the then-president-elect, and the two spoke briefly by phone about immigration and infrastructure—and L.A.’s 2024 Olympic bid.

“He’s been great [on the Olympics],” Garcetti said. “I have to admit, he brought it up with me when we talked the first time. He asked some questions about it and said, ‘Let me know who I can reach out to.’ He has already contacted the president of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, and invited him to the White House.”

And that’s not the only area where Garcetti thinks he and the president can cooperate. At a moment when California seems intent on using its considerable clout as the world’s sixth-largest economy to defy Trump at every turn, Garcetti is betting that he can get more done for his constituents—and perhaps do more to boost his own political fortunes—by seeking common ground.

That divide raises some intriguing and important questions: How much of the resistance, particularly in California, is pointless political posturing? How much is productive? How much is counterproductive? How do you tell the difference?



An article by Curtis Houck titled "Lies: MSNBC Propagandizes Women's March is 'Message of Unity,' Not 'Hateful or Anti-Trump'" was posted at [newsbusters.org](http://newsbusters.org) on Jan. 21, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Yes, that headline does not contain a typo. All Saturday [Jan. 21] morning on MSNBC, the liberal cable network foolishly tried to convince viewers that the far-left, pro-abortion Women's March would offer only "a message of unity" and not be "hateful or anti-Trump."

This is just not true. As my colleague and MRC Culture writer Katie Yoder has repeatedly chronicled, women's groups with pro-life beliefs were not only purged, but also informed that the official event platform "is pro-choice" and stated it would "look forward to marching on behalf of individuals who share the view that women deserve the right to make their own reproductive decisions."

Just after 7:00 a.m. Eastern, reporter Cal Perry remarked near the National Mall that attendees have referred to themselves as "part of the Resistance" responding to "what they saw yesterday on TV with Donald Trump, giving sort of a dark inauguration speech."



An article by Anthony Joseph and Anna Hopkins titled "Piers Morgan Blasts Madonna for Her Attack on Trump" was posted at [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) on Jan. 23, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Piers Morgan has blasted Madonna after she said she wants to 'blow up the White House' in protest against Donald Trump.

The singer was a surprise guest speaker at the Women's March in Washington yesterday and her comments have reportedly sparked a Secret Service investigation.

Good Morning Britain presenter, Morgan, slammed Madonna on the ITV show—saying she is "fueling an idea" to "assassinate" President Trump.

On the ITV show this morning, the MailOnline editor-at-large said:

- "My issue with the march is that it basically seemed to be an anti-Trump march around the world."
- They seemed to be saying "We're furious that our female candidate didn't win, we hate this guy and we don't like the result."
- "More than that—it was about ending the hate. I saw lots of placards and people saying it's about ending the hate, Trump is hateful, we have to end the hate, it's all about love."

- Then I saw Madonna—one of the most high profile spokespeople of the whole thing—on the stage in America saying, “What I’ve been thinking about recently is blowing up the White House,” then I saw her effing and blinding.
- How does blowing up the white house end hate?
- How does Madonna saying she wants to blow up the White House help the campaign?
- That is not ending the hate. That is fueling an idea that the only way to stop Donald Trump is to assassinate him.

Donning a black p\*\*\*yhat, Madonna took the stage by storm, using the ‘F-word’ four times, which sparked a slew of apologies from broadcasters airing the protest live.

She went on to speak of her rage at the election result, telling the crowd she had thought a lot about “blowing up the White House.”

The 58-year-old later posted on Instagram to say she was using a “metaphor.”

According to the Gateway Pundit, a spokesman for the Secret Service said it was “aware” of Madonna’s comments and will open an investigation, but the ultimate decision whether or not to prosecute is the decision of the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

The Secret Service declined to comment on the matter, when contacted by DailyMail.com.



A video and an article by Gabriel Roxas titled “DISD Teacher in Hot Water Over Classroom Stunt” were posted at cbsdfw.com on Jan. 26, 2017. Following is the article.

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A Dallas ISD high school teacher is the one learning a hard lesson after a viral video showed her shooting a squirt gun at an image of President Trump.

Some students at Adamson High School told CBS11, it was clear to them that this was meant as a joke, but threatening a president is no laughing matter and now school officials are investigating after putting the teacher on administrative leave.

Pointing what appears to be a water gun at the image of President Donald Trump projected on a whiteboard, then yelling, “Die,” art teacher Payal Modi’s actions have now been seen by countless viewers across the internet. When Adamson junior Leslie Jaimes saw a CBS11 news camera outside her school, she said she had something to say.

“Justice For Modi. That’s what I said,” Jaimes said.

Jaimes said she was in Modi’s second period class on Inauguration Day when her teacher pulled out the water gun she had taken from a student.

"Trump came out, and she shot at him, but like it was just a water gun. It's no big deal," Jaimes said.

Senior Briana Castillo said she sympathizes with the frustration she sees on display in the video, but said Modi crossed a line.

"Although her actions didn't display that she was a good role model, she's always there and supports my classmates, my peers," Castillo said.

None of the students CBS11 talked to Thursday said they wanted Modi to lose her job, but for now the teacher's fate isn't clear.

CBS11 reached out to Modi, but she did not return calls and no one answered the door at her home.



An article titled "Wyonna Speaks Out About Sister Ashley Judd's Anti-Trump Rant" was posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 24, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Ashley Judd has faced backlash for her anti-Trump comments at the Women's March this weekend and her sister Wynonna is speaking out about the furor.

Ashley Judd took the stage at the Women's March and stated, "I am a nasty woman. Not as nasty as a man who looks like he bathes in Cheeto dust, a man whose words are a dis to America, Electoral College—sanctioned hate speech contaminating this national anthem."

The actress also read a poem about President Donald Trump.

Since then, Wynonna has spent the past several days tweeting about her response to her sister's stance and the negative reactions she's received for sharing that response.

It all began when the singer wrote, "A reminder for people visiting my site. For me, it's about love of & fellowship w/ fans. I don't do politics on here."

In another message she responded to fan's tweet about Ashley Judd and wrote, "The whole thing is toxic. I'm not giving her all the credit. She doesn't have that kind of power."

Wynonna said she didn't want to share a political stance, but her messages implied she disagreed with her sister.



An article titled "Chelsea Handler Says Melania Trump 'Barely Speaks English' Despite First Lady Speaking Several Languages" was posted at foxnews.com on Jan. 24, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

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Chelsea Handler took a swipe at Melania Trump saying she wouldn't interview the First Lady because "she can barely speak English."

Perhaps the comedian, who does not hold a college degree, should do her research first. The First Lady speaks at least five languages, including English, French, Italian, German, and Slovene.

As far as we can tell, Handler speaks but one.

Handler told *Variety* she wouldn't interview President Donald Trump for her Netflix show either even if he personally requested to be a guest.

"I don't respect either one of those people," she said.

Handler then launched into a speech about "divisiveness" not being "the answer" and the need to "reach across party lines." An interesting appeal considering Handler's comments about the President and First Lady.



Looking back to 2012, here are excerpts from an article by Kristen Walker Hatten titled "Why the Mainstream Media Ignores or Distorts the March for Life" that was posted at [lifesitenews.com](http://lifesitenews.com) on Jan. 27, 2012.

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This past Saturday, January 21 [2012], in Dallas, several thousand people gathered downtown to march to the federal building for a public rally. I was one of them. Road blocks were set up. Half the city center was shut down. Thirty-three police and one helicopter escorted what police unofficially estimated to be 8,000 people through the heart of the city and back.

The local paper, The Dallas Morning News, did not cover it. Not a single photo. Not even a whisper.

The West Coast March for Life, attended by 50,000 was ignored by local news as highlighted by blogger and pundit Michelle Malkin and other attendees.

In Washington, D.C., a crowd that has been estimated as numbering between 100,000 and 400,000 people marched down Constitution Avenue to protest abortion. The New York Times did not report on it. They did, however, include in their "Happenings in Washington" section a White House visit by NHL Stanley Cup champions and the signing of an Environmental Cooperation Agreement with the South Korean ambassador to the U.S.

Does this sound like a coincidence to you? Does this sound like unbiased reporting? Or does it sound like the mainstream media is deliberately not covering these events?

Apologists would have us believe that half a million to maybe more than a million people taking to the streets every year for the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision is not newsworthy. Why? Well, because it happens every year! Where's the story in that?

Here's the story: It happens every year.

Every single year, at least half a million people around the country protest for the same cause. Does that happen for any other cause besides abortion? Tell me if it does, I'd like to know.

Now, don't get me wrong! Some non-Catholic, non-conservative, or non-religious media outlets covered the event. For instance, the *Washington Post* has some online coverage—nothing in the print edition—which consists mostly of op-eds, blogs, and a photo slide show which includes one overview shot of the massive crowd, lots of Popes and nuns, and extensive coverage of a clash between pro-life and pro-abortion protesters outside the Supreme Court. Mouths are open, fingers pointing, pro-lifers looking snarly or weird, pro-aborts weepy and rained-on.

So in other words, the *Post* took an event in which hundreds of thousands of free Americans from all over the country gathered in their nation's capitol to make their voices heard, and manipulated it to look like a petty, ugly clash between fanatics fueled by top-down religious zealotry.

Last year, somewhere between six and nine thousand people, depending on who you ask, gathered in Dallas to march to the courthouse where the original suit in the *Roe* case was filed. I was there, for the third year in a row. The *Dallas Morning News* ran the headline "Hundreds March . . ." Not thousands. Hundreds.

They also used as their leading photo—in fact, it might have been the only photo, if memory serves—the single most fruit-loopy sign at the whole event. It was the one sign everyone else kept nudging each other and surreptitiously pointing to. It was written in Spanish, so I don't know what it said, but it featured as its centerpiece a crucified baby doll. I imagine whoever made it was full of good intentions and meant to make a point about baby Jesus and abortion, but still, the crucified baby sign came off a bit creepy.

A huge close-up of it was the main photo for the *Dallas Morning News* story, accompanied by that headline: "Hundreds march . . ."

Why? By accident? No. Because all these tactics—the misleading photos, the deceptive headlines, the lack of coverage—accomplish two things:

### **1. Marginalization**

It serves their cause to make us look like a fringe group of beady-eyed zealots. Hundreds of thousands of people does not look like a lunatic fringe, hence the lack of panoramic views. They show us isolated, angry, in unflattering poses, with captions that include verbs like "criticize" and "argue," as in the *Post* slide show.



This ensures that anyone viewing or reading at home who knows nothing about the pro-life movement but what the media tells them will continue to see us as a small, unimportant, disorganized, and threatening group of wackos.

## 2. Demoralization

It upsets us when this happens. It happens every year, but it's still upsetting. Thousands upon thousands of people work very hard to make these marches happen, from the little girl who sits in her living room floor and makes a sign with crayons on poster board, to the local organizers who make phone calls and the volunteers who make refreshments and the pro-life groups who raise money, and every last person who travels many miles and gets up early and bundles up against the cold to join in.

They do it because they have faith that in a free, democratic society, when hundreds of thousands take to the streets, the media will do its job and report on it. Every year, the mainstream media fail spectacularly at their jobs. (One could argue they fail every day, but let's take it one day at a time.)

If it weren't for "biased" outlets such as Fox News, Newsbusters, Hot Air, Live Action, LifeNews, etc., there would be no coverage at all. The "objective" media are misleading, outright deceptive, or silent, across the board.

New media is the key to winning the information war when it comes to abortion. Tweet, Facebook, Tumblr, and Pinterest your pro-life views from the digital mountaintop. Do not be afraid. Your fear of being different, of being isolated, of losing friends, is their weapon. Take it out of their hands and be unabashed in your support of human life.



Looking back to 2016, here is an article by Bill Bumpas titled "Once Again, Media Ignores March for Life" that was posted at [onenewsnow.com](http://onenewsnow.com) on Jan. 28, 2016.

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While tens of thousands of Americans braved last week's blizzard to rally in Washington, D.C., commemorating the nearly 60 million babies murdered since 1973's Roe v. Wade decision, a media watchdog group says the broadcast news networks ignored the annual event completely.

According to the Media Research Center (MRC), the coverage from ABC, CBS, and NBC was even worse than in previous years. Katie Yoder, staff writer and analyst for MRC's Culture department, reports that ABC mentioned the March for Life once, but it was in the context of people being stranded due to the winter storm.

Regardless, she tells OneNewsNow this year's rally had greater significance because of last summer's release of the undercover videos showing Planned Parenthood officials discussing the illegal sales of aborted baby body parts.

“During the march, I was there, and there were billboards up playing footage from these videos while the marchers were marching,” she shares. “That makes this march especially relevant this year because of the Planned Parenthood videos.”

And Yoder says Americans are outraged over the videos.

“I’m sure that those videos were part of the reason why many people were marching this year, but it wasn’t part of the reason the networks were covering the March for Life . . . because they didn’t cover the March for Life,” the analyst notes. “It kind of shows the networks in an embarrassing light. This is newsworthy, and yet the networks aren’t covering this.”

ABC and NBC did mention a mass celebrated by pro-life groups on the Pennsylvania turnpike while they were stuck in the blizzard, but there was no mention that the groups were on the road for the March for Life. In fact, Yoder points out that the major networks covered the debut of panda cubs “26x more” than the March for Life.



***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.”