

Eye on the World

Dec. 22, 2018

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 Dec. 22, 2018.

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).



A Reuters article titled "Thousands March in Brussels Against U.N. Migration Pact" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 16, 2018. Following is the article.

Thousands of people marched in Brussels on Sunday against a U.N. pact aimed at fostering cooperation on migration, eclipsing a smaller demonstration in support of the deal, the signing of which brought down Belgium's government last week.

Police said some 5,500 people marched in the bigger protest, organized by Flemish right wing parties in the part of the capital where main European Union institutions are located.

A separate counter-demonstration of around 1,000 people, organized by left-wing groups and non-governmental organizations, took place in the city center.

Belgian right-wing N-VA, which is the biggest party in parliament, pulled its ministers from the ruling coalition last week after Prime Minister Charles Michel refused its demand that he not sign the U.N. migration compact in Marrakesh.

Michel had secured a large parliamentary majority in favor of maintaining Belgium's support of the U.N. text, with support from the opposition socialists and greens. Critics said the N-VA's move was the opening shot in a campaign before federal elections in May.

The U.N. pact was agreed in July by all 193 U.N. members except the United States, but only 164 formally signed it at the meeting last Monday.

It has run into criticism from European politicians who say it could increase immigration to Europe as the bloc has turned increasingly restrictive on accepting refugees and migrants alike since a 2015 spike in arrivals.

Ten countries, mostly in formerly Communist Eastern Europe, have pulled out of the non-binding pact.

With a record 21.3 million refugees globally, the United Nations began work on the pact after more than one million people arrived in Europe in 2015, many fleeing civil war in Syria and poverty in Africa.



An article titled " 'Strong Anger' in Okinawa As Japan Starts Work to Move US Base" was posted at aljazeera.com on Dec. 13, 2018. Following is the article.

Japan has begun main reclamation work at a controversial United States military airbase on the southern island of Okinawa, prompting protests and "strong" opposition from the local governor.

Construction workers on Friday [Dec. 14] started dumping a truckload of sediment into the sea at Henoko on Okinawa's east coast to build a runway for the Marine Corps base that will be moved from densely populated Futenma in the island's south.

The central government in Tokyo has reversed Okinawa's earlier ban on land-fill work at the site.

Opponents of the move say it would not only harm the environment - construction risks corals and endangered dugongs, according to activists - but also ignore local wishes to have the base removed from the island entirely.

"I can't help but feel strong anger at the start of (land reclamation), which ignores the will of the Okinawan people," Denny Tamaki, the recently elected governor who opposes to the base being relocated within the island, told reporters.

Tens of thousands of people rallied in August to protest against the planned relocation.

Tamaki has raised the issue with both government officials in Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet and on a trip to the United States. Officials in Tokyo said they will stick with the plan despite protests. Washington's position is that the dispute should be resolved between the central government and Okinawa.

Local media said protesters demonstrated at the site, including some who paddled out to sea to try to block the work.

Okinawa accounts for less than one percent of Japan's total land area, but hosts more than half of the approximately 47,000 US military personnel stationed in the country.

For decades, residents have asked for some of the bases to be moved, with resentment growing after a string of accidents and crimes committed by US military personnel and workers at the facility as well as long-standing complaints over base-related noise and pollution.

As a solution, Abe's government has sought to move the unpopular Futenma base to a remote site, part of which will be built through land reclamation.

But many in Okinawa feel the base should be moved to somewhere else in Japan, and say the task of hosting US troops should be more fairly shared.

On Friday, government spokesperson Yoshihide Suga repeated that Tokyo regards the plan as "the only solution" to maintain an important US military presence while addressing local concerns.

Okinawa is set to hold a non-binding local referendum on February 24 about the planned base relocation.



An article titled "Japan Begins Filling in Henoko Bay in Okinawa to Make Room for Unpopular U.S. Base" was posted at japantimes.co.jp on Dec. 14, 2018. Following is the article.

The government on Friday [Dec. 14] pushed ahead with full-fledged land reclamation work needed to move a key U.S. air base to Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, despite stiff local resistance and legal wrangling.

The pouring of soil and sand began before noon in Nago's Henoko district, where the replacement facility for U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is to be built, marking a new and significant phase in the relocation process. The unpopular base is currently in a crowded residential area of Ginowan.

"I cannot help feeling strong resentment toward the work being carried out in defiance of the prefectural residents' will," said Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki.

The relocation plan originated from an agreement reached between the Japanese and U.S. governments in 1996, after public anger was fueled by the 1995 gang rape of an Okinawa girl by three U.S. servicemen. But progress has been slow, with many residents hoping the base will be removed from the prefecture altogether.

Many hours before soil was dumped in a 6.3-hectare area on the southern side of the landfill site, protesters gathered in front of the gates of the U.S. Marines' Camp Schwab, which is adjacent to the site, and held sit-in demonstrations in which they held up placards and called for immediate suspension of the work, facing off with the riot police.

"We have been betrayed by the government all too often. I am sick of it," said Seiko Kaneku, 69, from the city of Uruma.

The current feud between the central and local governments re-emerged under the tenure of previous Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga, with the fight picked up by Tamaki—who was elected in September on an anti-U.S. base platform after his predecessor died of cancer.

But Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters in Tokyo that the central government will advance the construction work so as “to achieve the complete return of the Futenma air base (to Japan) at the earliest possible date.”

There have been legal battles, too, but the central government’s plans to proceed with construction work were given a boost after the Supreme Court ruled against Okinawa’s position in December 2016.

In April 2017, the central government began building seawalls off Henoko’s coastline so it could pour soil and sand inside the designated area.

Under a plan to effectively have Futenma airfield transferred to the site adjacent to the U.S. Marines’ Camp Schwab, the central government is scheduled to fill in some 157 hectares off Henoko and construct an offshore V-shaped runway.

After decades of hosting the bulk of U.S. military facilities in Japan, many people in Okinawa are frustrated with noise, crime and accidents linked to them and do not want any new bases built in the prefecture.

“Why do they force bases on Okinawa? Don’t ignore the people’s will,” said Shoshin Nakama, a 71-year-old farmer from the town of Kin.

Locals and civic groups are also concerned about the potential environmental damage that could be caused by the relocation work. The sea off Henoko has coral reefs and is a habitat for the endangered dugong, which is similar to the manatee.

The central government has maintained that the current relocation plan is “the only solution” for removing the dangers posed by the Futenma base, which is situated close to schools and homes, without undermining the deterrence provided by the Japan-U.S. security alliance.



An article by Michael Peck titled “Russia Now Number 2 in Military Sales; Any Guess Who is Number 1?” was posted at nationalinterest.com on Dec. 16, 2018. Following is the article.

Since the days of the Soviet Union, Russia has been the best at selling two things: weapons and oil. And now, Russia is selling more weapons.

Russia vaulted to No. 2 in 2017 among nations on a list of the world’s 100 top-selling arms-producing and military services companies, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) .

“The combined arms sales of Russian companies accounted for 9.5 per cent [sic] of the Top 100 total, making Russia the second largest arms producer in

the Top 100 in 2017—a position that had been occupied by the United Kingdom since 2002,” SIPRI said. “Taken together, the arms sales of the 10 Russian companies listed in the Top 100 increased by 8.5 per cent in 2017, to \$37.7 billion.”

“Russian companies have experienced significant growth in their arms sales since 2011,” said SIPRI researcher Siemon Wezeman. “This is in line with Russia’s increased spending on arms procurement to modernize its armed forces.”

In addition, a Russian company made it to the top 10 on the Top 100 list: Almaz-Antev, Russia’s largest weapons manufacturer, saw a 17 percent surge in sales, to \$8.6 billion.

“Along with Almaz-Antev, three other Russian companies in the Top 100 increased their arms sales by more than 15 per cent: United Engine Corporation (25 per cent), High Precision Systems (22 per cent) and Tactical Missiles Corporation (19 per cent),” SIPRI said.

Total sales among the Top 100 companies grew 2.5 percent in 2017, reflecting a 44 percent increase in since 2002. However, SIPRI admits that its data lacks a significant component: Chinese arms sales are not included because of a lack of reliable data.

Nonetheless, SIPRI’s list shows how cosmopolitan the global arms market has become. The Top 100 are sprinkled with European, Israeli, Japanese, South Korean and Indian companies. Britain remains Europe’s largest arms producer, with BAE Systems as the largest British manufacturer with \$22.9 billion in sales.

One surprise is the growth of Turkey’s defense industry: Turkish arms sales surged 24 percent in 2017. “This significant increase reflects Turkey’s ambitions to develop its arms industry to fulfill its growing demand for weapons and become less dependent on foreign suppliers,” says Pieter Wezeman, another SIPRI researcher. There were four Indian companies on the list, accounting for 1.9 percent of Top 100 sales.

Note that many of the Top 100 companies are not traditional weapons manufacturers making tanks or planes. The list includes firms like the consultancy Booz Allen Hamilton or IT companies like CACI.

Some would say that Russia rising to near the top of the list of weapons makers is a dubious honor at best. So, it’s worth remembering which nation is the largest arms manufacturer in the world. The United States accounted for forty-two—almost half—of the Top 100 arms companies and 5 of the top 10. American arms sales grew 2 percent in 2017, to \$226.6 billion. Lockheed Martin remained the world’s largest arms producer.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

- An article titled "Macron Govt. Hopes 'Yellow Vest' Protests Running Out of Steam" was posted at afp.com on Dec. 16, 2018.
- An article by Michael Wilner titled "U.S. Navy May Stop Docking in Haifa After Chinese Take Over Port" was posted at jpost.com on Dec. 15, 2018.
- An article titled "Egypt Unearths Tomb of Ancient High Priest" was posted at france24.com on Dec. 15, 2018.
- An article titled "UN Force Says Israel-Lebanon Border Tunnels Violate Truce" was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 17, 2018.
- An article titled "Nigerian Pastoral Clashes [Muslim Herders and Christian Farmers] Kill More Than 3,600; Amnesty Says" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 17, 2018.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "US Senate Unanimously Holds Saudi Crown Prince Responsible for Khashoggi's Murder" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 14, 2018.
- An article titled "Trudeau Says Canada Wants Out of Saudi Vehicle Export Deal" was posted at bloomberg.com on Dec. 16, 2018.
- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Church of England Now Offers Baptism-Style Ceremony for Transgenders" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 13, 2018.
- An article by Todd Wood titled "Moscow to Set Up Military Base in Caribbean [An Island of Venezuela]" was posted at tsarizm.com on Dec. 14, 2018.
- An article titled "German Media Suggests Venezuela Might Become Russia's 'New Cuba in US Backyard' " was posted at sputniknews.com on Dec. 15, 2018.
- An article by Mark Stevenson titled "US Pledges \$10.6 Billion Aid for Central America, Southern Mexico" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 18, 2018.



An article by Ben Shapiro titled "The Left's War on Parenting" was posted at dailywire.com on Dec. 19, 2018. Following is the article.

Last month, the New York State Education Department made a crucial decision: Commissioner MaryEllen Elia handed authority to local school boards to veto the right for private schools to operate.

Those school boards must now determine whether private schools provide an education "substantially equivalent to that received in district public schools."

According to Jewish educators Elya Brudny and Yisroel Reisman, "The state government now requires private schools to offer a specific set of classes more comprehensive than what students in public schools must learn."

This isn't a problem for Jewish schools alone—Catholic schools in New York have bucked the legislation, with James Cultrara, executive secretary of the New York

Council of Catholic School Superintendents, explaining, “We simply cannot accept a competing school having authority over whether our schools can operate.”

Now there’s a case to be made that the state has an interest in children learning basic secular studies, and to that end, Cultrara has called for an objective standard for evaluating whether or not schools are properly educating their students. That case is far stronger in a welfare state, in which insufficient education often ends with the public bearing the brunt of such failures.

But there’s also a case to be made that parents are the best sources for judging which educational standards their children should obtain—and that attempting to force-feed education to unwilling students and parents at threat of legal peril is a massive imposition on freedom.

It’s also unlikely that a broadly applied standard of education will succeed in raising standards across the board. The public school system hasn’t been able to achieve that even absent religious conflicts.

More fascinating than this debate, however, is the generalized attitude toward parenting expressed by the social left. If you choose to send your child to a non-approved yeshiva, you must be policed and your child threatened with truancy. If, however, you are a parent who decides to expose your 11-year-old son to risk of sexual perversion, then you’re open-minded and noble.

What else are we to take from the story of Desmond Napoles?

Napoles is an 11-year-old boy who dresses in drag for national press, and who was squired—presumably by his parents—to a gay bar in Brooklyn, New York, called 3 Dollar Bill, where grown men proceeded to hand dollar bills to him. As writer Matt Walsh has pointed out, were Desmond a girl being paraded by her parents before the leering stares of grown men, child protective services would be called. But since Desmond is a celebrity who has been exploited by his parents, this is all worth celebrating.

Which is, perhaps, one of the reasons so many religious parents don’t want the state of New York determining what they should and should not be allowed to teach their children.

Religious parents may look at the world created by the social left and say that they want to inculcate in their children an alternative set of values. There may be costs to that. Perhaps there are ways to mitigate those costs.

But overall, only one set of parents is being punished for making “educational” decisions by the state of New York—and it’s not the set of parents cross-dressing their pre-pubescent children for fun and cash.



An article by Walter Williams titled “FDA Policies Kill” was posted at jewish-worldreview.com on Dec. 19, 2018. Following is the article.

Among the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's responsibilities are approval and regulation of pharmaceutical drugs. In short, its responsibility is to ensure the safety and effectiveness of drugs.

In the performance of this task, FDA officials can make two types of errors—statistically known as the type I error and type II error. With respect to the FDA, a type I error is the rejection or delayed approval of a drug that is safe and effective—erring on the side of over-caution—and a type II error is the approval of a drug that has unanticipated dangerous side effects, or erring on the side of under-caution.

Let's examine the incentives of FDA officials. If FDA officials err on the side of under-caution and approve a drug that has unanticipated dangerous side effects, the victims of their mistake will be highly visible. There may be congressional hearings, embarrassment to the agency and officials fired.

It's an entirely different story if FDA officials err on the side of over-caution and either disapprove or delay the approval of a drug that is both safe and effective.

In that case, the victims will be invisible. They will have no idea that their suffering could have been eliminated, or in the case of death, their loved ones will have no idea why they died. Their suffering and/or death will be chalked up to the state of medicine rather than the status of an FDA drug application. Their doctor will simply tell them there's nothing more that can be done to help them.

The FDA officials go scot-free.

Let's look at some of the history of the FDA's erring on the side of over-caution. Beta blockers reduce the risk of secondary heart attacks and were widely used in Europe during the mid-1970s. The FDA imposed a moratorium on approvals of beta blockers in the U.S. because of their carcinogenicity in animals.

Finally, in 1981, the FDA approved the first such drug, boasting that it might save up to 17,000 lives per year. That means that as many as 100,000 people died from secondary heart attacks waiting for FDA approval. (<http://tinyurl.com/yd xpvd54>).

Those people are in the "invisible graveyard," a term to describe people who would have lived but died because the cure that could have saved them was bottled up in the FDA's regulatory process.

Today, the Phoenix-based Goldwater Institute is leading the battle to bring some sanity and compassion to the drug approval process. It recently published a paper by Mark Flatten, titled "Studied to Death: FDA Overcaution Brings Deadly Consequences."

Flatten examined the FDA's approval process and made some important recommendations. Flatten criticized some FDA practices, saying, "Instead of having to prove a new treatment is safe for its intended use, the FDA now reviews drugs based on how they might be used by doctors to treat individual patients, effectively substituting the judgment of agency regulators for that of practicing medical professionals."

In the 1990s, Chinese nationals were literally dragging duffel bags of money into the Democratic National Committee as President Clinton allowed sensitive ballistic-missile guidance technology to be transferred to the Chinese government.

No charges. No independent counsel.

Clinton held illegal campaign fundraisers at the White House, where Chinese citizens handed checks directly to White House staff.

Still no charges and no independent counsel.

Videotapes of the White House fundraisers surfaced, featuring the president and vice president glad-handing campaign donors on federal property.

And again, no charges, no independent counsel.

The New York Times' response to Attorney General Janet Reno's refusal to assign an independent counsel to these textbook campaign finance violations was a forceful editorial lightly ribbing Reno for her "blunders."

"Saturday Night Live" was tougher on Reno.

"Weekend Update With Norm Macdonald," Nov. 8, 1997:

With the release of over 100 hours of videotape of President Clinton at campaign fundraisers, the pressure continues to mount on Attorney General Janet Reno to name an independent counsel to investigate the president. In addition, some senators are said to be furious that, instead of watching the videotapes, Reno has been taping over them with episodes of "Xena: Warrior Princess."

But now we're supposed to care that Trump's personal lawyer lied about a legal payment to, depending on your point of view, a mistress or an opportunistic grifter—AND HE USED A TRUMP ORGANIZATION EMAIL ADDRESS.

Lying to the press isn't a crime, and paying money to cover up an affair isn't a crime, either, even if you're running for president. If these were crimes, John Edwards would be on death row.

As a presidential candidate in 2008, Edwards lied up a storm about getting his mistress pregnant as his wife was dying of cancer. Only through the generous support of his well-heeled donors was he able to hide his mistress from the public. This donor-funded scam went on for months, until the National Enquirer finally caught Edwards visiting his mistress and newborn baby at the Beverly Hilton.

Edwards was later charged with campaign finance violations for using campaign funds to hide the affair. The prosecution was widely ridiculed, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

If that's not a violation of the campaign finance laws, then Trump's \$130,000 payment to Daniels sure isn't.

In a sane world, that ought to be all you need to know about Trump's alleged campaign finance violations. As the money-grubbing Clinton years demon-

strated, federal election laws are like “No Smoking” signs in France: rules that exist only for our amusement.

But with Robert “Ahab” Mueller no closer to finding anything resembling Russian collusion, the Resistance has pinned its impeachment hopes on the most meaningless of “crimes.”

Proving that the Cohen plea agreement is all about getting Trump on something—anything!—and not about enforcing the law, one of the crimes the government forced him to plead guilty to isn’t a crime. It’s not a crime by statutory definition and it’s not a crime by the fact that we still have a First Amendment.

Cohen pleaded guilty to a campaign finance violation for entering into a “catch and kill” agreement with the National Enquirer’s David Pecker, whereby the Enquirer would purchase, and then bury, the stories of women who claimed to have had sex with Trump, in this case, Karen McDougal.

As a definitional matter, that agreement cannot be the basis of a campaign finance violation. The government’s own Sentencing Memorandum for Michael Cohen states:

“In August 2014, (Pecker) had met with Cohen and (Trump), and had offered to help deal with negative stories about (Trump’s) relationships with women by identifying such stories so that they could be purchased and ‘killed.’ ”

August 2014 is a full year before there even was a Trump campaign. It’s disturbing enough to have every payment made during a campaign subject to investigation as a potential campaign finance violation. But to be finding campaign law violations before there’s even a campaign is ludicrous.

And is *The New York Times* OK with the government hauling newspaper publishers into court and demanding that they explain why they chose to run, or not to run, a story? Liberals may dispute whether bloggers are “journalists,” but the National Enquirer is the largest newspaper in the country.

If Pecker’s editorial judgment can be the subject of litigation, how about prosecuting Newsweek for catching and killing Michael Isikoff’s story on Monica Lewinsky?

Yes, Cohen pleaded guilty to a campaign finance violation for agreeing to pay Pecker to kill the affair stories. The government had nailed Michael Cohen on so many financial crimes (having nothing to do with Trump) that prosecutors could have gotten him to plead guilty to bearing Trump’s love child. (If Cohen wants a lucrative gig after prison, how about renting out his face by the hour to smart guys who like being underestimated?)

The main thing we’ve learned from Cohen’s guilty plea on the Enquirer deal is that these prosecutors don’t mind looking silly, as long as they can get Trump.



An article by Ann Coulter titled “Gutless President in Wall-Less Country” was posted at anncoulter.com on Dec. 19, 2018. Following is the article.

If you were elected president after decades of politicians doing nothing about the millions of illegals pouring into our country every year, committing crimes, dealing drugs, driving drunk, molesting children and killing Americans like Kate Steinle, and your central campaign promise—repeated every day—was to build a wall, wouldn't you have spent the entirety of your transition period working on getting it done?

Wouldn't you have been building prototypes, developing relationships with key congressional allies and talking to military leaders about using the Seabees or the Army Corps of Engineers to build the wall?

Wouldn't you skip the inauguration and take the oath of office in San Diego so you could get started on supervising wall construction immediately after putting your hand on the Bible and being sworn in as the leader of the free world?

You would if you meant it.

Well, Donald Trump didn't do that.

OK, sure he could have taken the oath in D.C., gone to a few balls, then started the wall on day two of his presidency. But he didn't do that either.

Maybe I'm a literalist. A zealot. When people kept telling me to be patient—the wall is coming!—I nursed a private hope that I was wrong, and they were right.

It is now crystal clear that one of two things is true: Either Trump never intended to build the wall and was scamming voters all along, or he has no idea how to get it done and zero interest in finding out.

He sacrifices every opportunity to make the wall happen.

For two years, Trump pretended to believe the president of the United States needs express authorization from Congress to defend the nation's borders and blamed the Republican majority for not "funding" the wall.

In a few weeks, he'll start blaming the Democratic House.

Last week—several whole days ago—Trump said over and over again that he would shut down the government if he didn't get funding for the wall—the precise thing he claims he needs. "We need border security. The wall is a part of border security," he said. "If we don't have border security, we'll shut down the government."

Trump wore the shutdown over the wall as a badge of honor: "You want to know something? OK, you want to put that on me. I'll take it. You know what I'll say? Yes, if we don't get what we want . . . I will shut down the government. Absolutely."

One week later, The Drudge Report: "Wall Funding Off Table"

In other words, Trump is doing exactly what I feared he would do in the worst conceivable way. He's not building the wall, while making ridiculous promises right up until the second before he folds.

The Washington Post loves to find the one crazy, trailer park lady who supports Trump because she's had religious ecstasies about him, but most people who voted for him did so with a boatload of qualms.

The basic factory setting on the perception of Trump is: gigantic douchebag. This is a man who manufactured fake Time magazine covers featuring himself with the headline, "Donald Trump: The 'Apprentice' is a television smash!" so that he could put framed copies of it on the walls of his clubs.

His business is convincing people with lowbrow taste to give him their money.

He's a vulgar publicity hound who used to call reporters in a fake voice and pretend to be his own PR agent, "John Miller" or "John Barron," so he could brag that actresses wanted to date him.

On one "Apprentice" episode, the reward for the winning team was: to see Trump's apartment. Not to eat there or spend the night. They got to see it. "As a little treat," he said, "you're gonna see the nicest apartment in New York City." He added: "I show this apartment to very few people. Presidents, kings . . ."

It's not as if a majority of his voters weren't clear-eyed about what kind of man he is. If anything, Trump's vulgar narcissism made his vow to build a wall more believable. Respectable politicians had made similar promises over the years—and they always betrayed the voters. Maybe it took a sociopath to ignore elite opinion and keep his word.

On the basis of his self-interest alone, he must know that if he doesn't build the wall, he has zero chance of being re-elected and a 100 percent chance of being utterly humiliated.

But when Trump is alone with Ivanka, they seem to agree that the wall has nothing to do with it. The people just love him for who he is! In a country of 320 million people, I'm sure there are some, but I have yet to meet a person who said, Yeah, I don't really care about immigration or trade, I just love his personality!

What else were we going to do? He was the only one talking sense. Unfortunately, that's all he does: talk. He's not interested in doing anything that would require the tiniest bit of effort.

In the end, we'll probably find out "wall" was Trump's "safe word" with Stormy Daniels. It's just something he blurts out whenever he's in trouble.

He's in trouble now. As absurd as the Russia nonsense is, the details about Trump's sleazy associates, the porn star, the Playboy playmate and his seedy business practices leave his supporters feeling queasy, even if he hasn't committed any crimes.

Instead of joining a fight that will make his most ardent supporters cringe no matter how it comes out, why not choose a battleground where he's guaranteed a win? If Trump used the military to build the wall—actually build it, not keep telling us he's going to build it—the Democrats will go mad.

They'll hold impeachment hearings, file a million lawsuits, produce weeping children reading from phony scripts written by immigrant rights groups—and Trump will win. The public will support Trump overwhelmingly, and the left will be forced to keep reminding voters why they hate Democrats.

Instead, what he's doing now absolutely guarantees that the next president will be a Democrat and, given today's Democratic Party, that president will be Kamala Harris.



An article by David Barden titled "Twitter Users Shred Trump for 'Celebrating' The Weekly Standard's Closure" was posted at huffpost.com on Dec. 16, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

Twitter users have castigated President Donald Trump after he rejoiced at the forthcoming closure of *The Weekly Standard*.

The conservative magazine, which has been critical of the president, will publish its final issue on Monday.

Donald Trump tweeted on Saturday [Dec. 15]: "The pathetic and dishonest Weekly Standard, run by failed prognosticator Bill Kristol (who, like many others, never had a clue), is flat broke and out of business. Too bad. May it rest in peace!"

Many responded to the president's tweet by reminding him of his own failed business ventures.

That list included the following.

- Trump Hotels & Casinos Resorts
- Trump Castle
- Trump Plaza
- Trump Taj Mahal
- Donald J. Trump Foundation
- Trump University
- Trump Airlines
- Trump Steaks
- Trump Vodka
- Trump Model Management



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Mueller the Impaler" was posted at patriotpост.us on Dec. 15, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

It's not just because Robert Mueller looks like someone that Hollywood would have typecast to spend his entire career portraying one of those ancient ogres who went about crucifying his enemies that I despise him. It's because he behaves like one.

It's bad enough that he has pretty much destroyed the lives of George Papadopoulos and Michael Flynn, but after two years of trying to nail Donald Trump to the cross, the best he has been able to do is send Papadopoulos to jail for two weeks and suggested that Flynn serve no time for misspeaking to the FBI. Even the FBI decided he hadn't intentionally lied but had only been confused by a question.

As bad as all of this is, Mueller hasn't seen fit to go after members of the FBI, the CIA, and the Justice Department who told a series of known and provable lies to Congress. That tawdry group would include James Comey, Andrew McCabe, Peter Strzok, Lisa Page, Bruce Ohr, James Clapper, and John Brennan.

Also, inasmuch as Mueller's mandate was to investigate collusion with Russia, how is it that his net somehow managed to miss Barack Obama, who vowed to be more flexible in his collusion with Putin after the 2012 election? An even bigger colluder with the Russkies was Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who, along with her husband, accepted bribes from Russia and on her own turned over 20% of our uranium deposits to them.

And let us not forget that when it comes to working hand in glove with Russia, it was Hillary's campaign and the DNC that paid Christopher Steele to concoct the phony Russian dossier.

When it comes to getting to the truth, Mueller could take lessons from Peter Sellers' bumbling French detective Inspector Clouseau. The major difference is that Sellers was playing it for laughs, whereas Mueller is deadly serious about destroying the lives of those he dislikes for purely political reasons.

■ Joe Biden

We have all been on pins and needles wondering whom 76-year-old Joe Biden thought was the smartest and best qualified person the Democrats could possibly nominate to be their flag bearer in 2020. To nobody's great surprise, but coming as a major disappointment to the likes of Michael Bloomberg, Cory Booker, Kamala Harris, Kirsten Gillibrand, Eric Swalwell, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Gavin Newsom, Andrew Cuomo, and Hillary Clinton, Biden's choice was Biden.

I'm not sure why Biden, who tried for the brass ring in 1988 and 2008, figures he would be more electable at 78 than when he was 48 or 68, but, as a Republican who prays that Trump will be reelected in two years, I'm all for Biden tossing his hat into what should be a very bloody ring in 2020.

■ Tijuana

I hope everyone is enjoying as much as I am what is taking place in Tijuana these days, as Mexicans, for a change, are turning on their own invading migrants. It explains why outlets like CNN and MSNBC have gone silent on the Hondurans. It's a lot easier to dismiss American conservatives as bigots and racists than when it's other Latinos objecting to Central Americans blighting their city and country.

■ Illegals and welfare

Speaking of which, in spite of all the hoopla we hear from Democrats insisting that the 22 million illegal aliens are a boon for the American economy, the Census discloses the inconvenient fact that 63% of them are collecting some form of welfare for which the rest of us are paying.

■ Predictable hiring consequence

Predictably, women are having an increasingly difficult time finding jobs on Wall Street because men are afraid of being accused of sexual harassment. No doubt, some of the men are afraid because they know what sort of creeps they are. Others, just as surely, are terrified that in the current climate where we're all expected to believe the accuser, even when that person is no more credible than Christine Blasey Ford and Julie Swetnick, men don't want to walk around with targets on their backs just because some woman doesn't think she's being promoted quickly enough or being paid enough.

I saw some of this taking place 20 years ago when I was still working in Hollywood, and people who thought they should be hiring more blacks suddenly discovered to their chagrin that it was easy enough to hire them, but nearly impossible to fire rude, lazy, or incompetent employees without being hit with state or federal lawsuits.

■ Benefits for China

Until I read an item in *The New American*, I had no idea that the UN was subsidizing Chinese postage. I'm not surprised; I just didn't know that China could send products to the U.S. cheaper than our manufacturers can send similar items domestically.

When China isn't literally getting away with murder, it's figuratively getting away with murder. By now, we all know that the Paris Accords, which were meant to stifle our own industries, gave a pass to China and India until 2030.

The way the United Nations Postal Union was set up, the intention was to assist so-called developing nations by charging them less to ship goods. Somehow, China, with the world's second-largest economy, got itself on the list along with all those tiny African nations you've never heard of—the ones whose major exports are Ebola and the more exotic forms of flu.

The good news is that Trump is pulling our support unless the UNPU starts to charge China the same rate it's charging us.

■ Banning a song

Further proof that liberals are inveterate party poopers can be found in the controversy swirling around the song "Baby, It's Cold Outside." Those on the left, particularly the feminists, are out to ban the song because they regard it as a song of seduction. That's because it's a duet in which the woman keeps telling the man that she has to go home, and the man reminds her that it's nippy outside and she should consider staying right where she is. Which happens to be in his apartment.

Originally, the song, written in 1944, was sung at Manhattan cocktail parties by its composer, Frank Loesser, and his wife Lynn.

But in 1949, he sold it to MGM, which used it to good advantage in "Neptune's Daughter," where the song was sung by Ricardo Montalban and Esther Williams, while it was cleverly intercut with Red Skelton and Betty Garrett also singing it. The twist was that while Montalban was out to seduce Williams, it was Garrett who was trying to have her way with a very reluctant Skelton.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Billionaire Despots" was posted at patriotpost.us on Dec. 17, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

It used to be that when one referred to left-wing enclaves, the reference was to the uberliberals of New York, Chicago, and Hollywood or the brie-noshing, wine spritzer tree-huggers of Marin County, but they have been replaced by the electronic barons of the Silicon Valley.

It's the likes of Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, Jack Dorsey, and Jeff Bezos who now determine the direction of the Democratic Party. It's they with the deepest pockets. Their billions dwarf the millions commonplace in Hollywood.

Perhaps even more importantly, they control the flow of information by deciding which individuals and which news outlets will be promoted on their platforms and which will be denied a voice and sometimes even a presence.

Tim Cook, for example, the CEO of Apple, announced that those people "who seek to push hate, division and violence, have no place on our platform."

By "those people," he was referring to those of us who don't subscribe to the Silicon agenda of open borders, same-sex marriages, abortions on demand, the confiscation of guns, special rules for transgenders, and politically correct speech.

The Lords and Ladies of the Silicon Kingdom are also the most influential zealots when it comes to promoting the climate-change hoax.

Although he is not directly connected to the electronic industry, except geographically, San Francisco hedge fund manager Tom Steyer handed over \$100 million to liberal candidates in the recent midterms so long as they made the environment their number one campaign issue.

■ Gore's empty threats

The oddest thing about the weather hoax is the fact that in spite of the fact that none of the dire threats Al Gore predicted in the 1990s have taken place, the enthusiasm has never abated among the most fervent tree huggers.

■ A single degree

The next oddest thing about their endless crusade is that they insist that the world will go up in flames if the average temperature rises a single degree, although weather is never constant and is constantly fluctuating from year to year. And yet nobody has ever seen a state incinerate because of an uptick in the temperature.

■ Wildfires

They might point to the wildfires that have plagued California over the years, but everyone except Tom Steyer knows they have been caused by a combination of drought and decades of resistance by people like Steyer to cut down dead trees and clear out forest underbrush.

■ Porous borders

Unfortunately, these schmucks are also a major force when it comes to keeping the borders porous. As a result, one in four Californians are foreign-born, and 72% of noncitizen households receive welfare, which helps explain why we have the highest state taxes in the country and are currently paying nearly \$4 a gallon for gas.

■ Not a citizen

Which reminds me of an email I recently received from Joe Neuner, which read: "Last year, 449,000 Californians replied to a jury summons by stating 'I am not a citizen and therefore cannot sit on a jury.'"

As Neuner points out, "The number one source for potential jurists is the Voter Registration list. Think about that."

■ Hirono strikes again

Mazie Hirono, the senator from Hawaii who came to fame during the Brett Kavanaugh hearings, explained why so many people remain Republicans in spite of all the media-bashing Republicans and President Trump receive on a daily basis: "We Democrats are too smart for most people."

That's pretty much what I figured, but it's nice to have my suspicion confirmed by someone as brilliant as Sen. Hirono, who quickly determined that Kavanaugh was a serial rapist "because he was a man."

■ Quip

Bob Hunt suggests that illegal aliens should be America's #1 export. Do I hear an amen?

■ Transgender legacy

Someone sent me a cartoon of Barack Obama standing in the middle of a men's room and saying: "Tear down this stall." The caption read: "Obama's only legacy...transgender bathrooms."

■ Bob Hope one-liners

LeRoy Foster, who still fondly recalls Bob Hope, sent along a bunch of his memorable one-liners:

On turning 70: "I still chase women, but only downhill."

On turning 80: "That's the time of life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

On turning 90: "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

On turning 100: "I don't feel old. In fact, I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for a nap."

On giving up his early career as a boxer: "I ruined my hands in the ring. The referee kept stepping on them."

On golf: "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

On his family's early poverty: "Four of us slept in one bed. When it got cold, mother would throw on another brother."

■ Milton Friedman quotes

Another quotable individual, and one who wrote all his own best lines, was economist Milton Friedman. Among the best of those sent along by Ray Bastings were:

"The most important single central fact about a free market is that no exchange takes place unless both parties benefit."

"Government never learn. Only people learn."

"The only way that has ever been discovered to have a lot of people cooperate voluntarily is through the free market. And that's why it's so essential to preserve individual freedom."

"Most economic fallacies derive from the tendency to assume that there is a fixed pie, that one party can gain only at the expense of another."

"Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself."

"What kind of society isn't structured on greed? The problem of social organization is how to set up an arrangement under which greed will do the least harm; capitalism is that kind of a system."

“History suggests that capitalism is a necessary condition for political freedom. Clearly, it is not a sufficient condition.”

“The society that puts equality before freedom will end up with neither. The society that puts freedom before equality will end up with a greater measure of both.”



An article by John Cox (a retired airline captain with US Airways who runs his own aviation safety consulting company, Safety Operating Systems) titled “Ask the Captain: Do Planes Have Quirks Like Cars?” was posted at usatoday.com on Dec. 16, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

Question: Owners of cars, trucks and motorcycles, especially older models, learn the quirks of their vehicles and how to safely compensate for them while driving. It made me wonder if flight crews recognize individual planes when their airlines own dozens or hundreds of the same model. Are modern commercial aircraft maintained so precisely that individual airplanes of the same model do not have unique mechanical or electrical quirks that pilots notice in flight? How often do pilots at major airlines fly the exact same (by tail number) airplanes?

Answer: Pilots fly many different airplanes of the same model within a fleet. While there are some differences, they fly pretty much the same. Manufacturers strive to produce airplanes that are very similar.

A pilot will see, on average, the same tail number several a times a year, but it is random rotation. Airplanes rotate through the system flying different routes. The determining factor is often is the maintenance schedule.

Pilots usually change their trips monthly. The airplanes usually change routes daily.

Airplanes fly pretty much the same with limited “quirks,” but some specific tail numbers handle slightly differently. This can be caused by it being older and having had major maintenance on flight controls. If it has had a very hard landing requiring repair, it will fly slightly differently, like a car that has been repaired after an accident.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

Finances

■ An article by Carlos Correa titled “An Extra \$500 a Month? 100 Residents To Be Selected for Basic Income Pilot Program” was posted at sacramentoCBS.com on Dec. 12, 2018.

- An article by Emily Ward titled "Government Can't Shut Down—Because 75% Is Already Funded" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 14, 2018.
- An article by Chris Matthews titled "Dow Falls 150 Points, Extending Worst Start to December Since 1980" was posted at marketwatch.com on Dec. 17, 2018.
- A Reuters article by Ron Bousso titled "New Oil, Gas Projects to Accelerate Next Year; Report" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 17, 2018.
- An article by Geoff Earle titled "Federal Reserve Hikes Interest Rates in Defiance of Trump—And Its Chair Tells President 'Nothing Will Deter Us' From More Raises As Share Prices Plunge After Move" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on Dec. 19, 2018.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Lukas Mikelionis titled "3 Illegal Immigrants Indicted for Murder of American Whistleblower: Report" was posted at foxnews.com on Dec. 18, 2018.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Lorena Inclan titled "Gun Deaths at Highest Level in 40 Years, CDC Says" was posted at actionnewsjax.com on Dec. 15, 2018.
- An article by Michael Balsamo titled "Trump Administration Moves to Ban Bump Stocks" was posted at apnews.com on Dec. 18, 2018.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Three Pro-Gun Groups File a Lawsuit Over the Bump Stock Ban" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 18, 2018.

Comments about Trump support

- A Reuters article by Richard Cowan titled "Senate Easily Approves Criminal Justice Legislation" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 18, 2018.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Justin Wise titled "Ex-Prosecutor Corrects Trump on Use of the Word 'Ray' to Describe Cohen" was posted at thehill.com on Dec. 16, 2018.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "Mission Accomplished: Christopher Steele Admits He Was Hired [by a Democratic Law Firm] to Cast Doubt on the 2016 Election" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 17, 2018.
- An article by Paul Bedard titled "Bernie Sanders Top Choice of Progressives in 2020" was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on Dec. 18, 2018.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled "The 'Draft Beto' Movement Is No Longer Just a Liberal Fantasy, It's a Reality" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 18, 2018.

News about the media

- An article by Maureen Lee Lenker titled "'Baby, It's Cold Outside' Banned by Cleveland Radio Station" was posted at ew.com on Dec. 2, 2018.

- An article by Craig Bannister titled “ ‘Baby, It’s Cold Outside’ Sales Surge After Holiday Classic Is Banned for ‘Predatory’ Lyrics” was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 14, 2018.
- An article by Maggie Parker titled “Radio Station [WAKY-FM in Louisville, Kentucky] Defies Chilly Reception for ‘Baby, It’s Cold Outside’ by Playing It on Repeat for Two Hours Straight” was posted at yahoo.com on Dec. 18, 2018.
- An article by Corinne Weaver titled “Reformed Muslim Suspended on Facebook for Criticizing Jihad” was posted at newsbusters.org on Dec. 13, 2018.

General interest

- An article titled “Over 40 Percent of Americans Say No to Flu Vaccinations” was posted at fox5ny.com on Dec. 14, 2018.
- An article by Lawrence Berkeley titled “Water Shortages Ahead? Sierra Nevada Snow Pack on Track to Shrink 79 Percent, New Study Finds” was posted at mercurynews.com on Dec. 15, 2018.
- An article by Morgan Stalter titled “Utah to Impose Nation’s Strictest DUI Limit” was posted at thehill.com on Dec. 15, 2018.
- An article by Ashley Halsey III titled “Planning to Fly Away for the Holidays? So Are Nearly 46 Million Other People” was posted at washingtonpost.com on Dec. 17, 2018.



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.”