

Eye on the World

March 7, 2020

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 churchofgodbigsandy.com for the weekend of March 7, 2020.

Compiled by Dave Hahir

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



An article by Walter Williams titled "Another African Tragedy" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on March 4, 2020. Following is the article.

Here are a few headlines about an African tragedy.

- "Africa's Worst Locust Plague in Decades Threatens Millions" (*The Wall Street Journal*).
- "'Unprecedented' Locust Invasion Approaches Full-Blown Crisis" (*Scientific American*).
- "Somalia Declares Locust Outbreak a 'National Emergency'" (*The National*).
- "UN Calls for International Action on East Africa Locust Outbreak" (*Bloomberg Green*).

This ongoing tragedy is mostly man-made, according to an analysis by Paul Driessen, who is a senior policy adviser with the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT) and the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise.

Driessen says that billions of desert locusts have attacked the eastern Africa nations of Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia. According to the U.N., the locust attack in Kenya is the worst in 70 years and the worst in 25 years for other east African nations.

Locusts are destroying crops and threatening tens of millions of Africans with lost livelihoods and starvation. These locust swarms can blanket 460 square miles at a time and consume more than 400 million pounds of vegetation daily. They reproduce fast, too, meaning locust swarms could be 500 times bigger in six months.

Africa's locust plague is man-made. Economic development organizations and activist nongovernmental organizations have foisted "agroecology" on the poorest nations—an organic-style agriculture. They promote the virtues of peasant farming. So how do these poor farmers fight the locust plague?

Driessen says: "Desperate Africans are responding with 'time-tested' methods: whistling and shouting loudly, banging on metal buckets, waving blankets and sticks, crushing the bugs perhaps even roasting and eating them, under UN-approved nutrition programs. In Eritrea, they are using 'more advanced' methods: hand-held and truck-mounted sprayers. In Kenya, police are firing machine guns and tear gas into the swarms!"

Antonio Guterres of Portugal, the U.N. secretary-general, claimed global warming as a cause of the problem. He said there is a link between climate change and the unprecedented locust crisis plaguing Ethiopia and East Africa.

Guterres said: "Warmer seas mean more cyclones generating the perfect breeding ground for locusts. Today the swarms are as big as major cities and it is getting worse by the day."

Guterres' suggestion that global warming is the cause of today's plague is sheer nonsense. Locust infestations have been feared and revered throughout mankind's history.

Devastating locust attacks in Egypt around 1446, Before the Common Era, were mentioned in the Book of Exodus in the Bible. "The Iliad" describes locusts taking flight to escape fire. Plagues of locusts are also mentioned in the Quran.

Driessen concludes: "A primary reason this plague of locusts has overwhelmed East Africa—indeed, perhaps THE primary reason—is that the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, other UN agencies and multiple environmentalist NGOs have been extolling and imposing 'agroecology' on Africa. This highly politicized 'movement' rabidly opposes hybrid seeds, synthetic insecticides and fertilizers, biotechnology, and even mechanized equipment like tractors! Acceptance of its tenets and restrictions has become a condition for poor farmers getting seeds and other assistance, and their countries and local communities getting development loans and food aid."

By the way, locusts are not only a threat to crops; they threaten people in another way.

In early January, a Boeing 737 on final landing approach to Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, found itself in the midst of a massive cloud of locusts swarming above the airport. The insects were sucked into the plane's engines. Their bodies were splattered across the windshield blinding the pilots to the runway ahead. The Boeing 737 climbed above the swarm.

The pilot depressurized the cabin so he could open the side window and reach around to clear the windshield by hand. Diverting to Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, the pilot was able to land the plane safely.



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “Pandemic? WHO Notes That Outside China, 81% of Coronavirus Cases Are in Just Four Countries” was posted at cnsnews.com on March 2, 2020. Following is the article.

Ninety percent of confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus worldwide have been in China, mostly in a single province, and in the other 65 countries affected as of Monday, 81 percent of cases are limited to just four countries—South Korea, Italy, Iran and Japan.

Of the remaining 61 affected countries, 19 have reported just one COVID-19 case each to date, and another 20 have reported fewer than ten cases each.

Furthermore, eight affected countries (Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia, Russia, Belgium, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka) have not reported any new cases in two weeks or more, indicating containment is working in those countries.

Citing such figures, and other reasons, the World Health Organization continues to hold off on naming the outbreak a global “pandemic,” while saying it will not hesitate to do so if the evidence points to such a situation.

In the U.S., the White House coronavirus taskforce is following the WHO’s lead on the matter.

“There’s many definitions that people use around ‘pandemic’ and one issue that the WHO is focused on is just sheer magnitude,” Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said at a White House briefing on Monday evening.

Despite the very large spread of cases within China, he said, “the actual absolute number of cases outside of China, while reflecting community spreading, are not of the magnitude comparable to any other pandemics that have been declared before—even the H1N1 [influenza] where you have billions of individuals infected across the world.”

Azar, who spoke earlier in the day to WHO secretary-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to get the WHO’s thinking on the matter, said, “We don’t have a view as to whether they should designate it a pandemic or not a pandemic.”

“Our view is that would be for the World Health Organization to define,” said Vice President Mike Pence, in charge of the national response to the outbreak.

“This isn’t so much about semantics. I think our briefing today was we’re in more than 60 countries at this point. And so we’re going to continue to focus on ensuring that we do all we can to prevent people coming into the country with the disease, to mitigate any spread of the disease once we identify cases, and of course, to provide treatment.”

Speaking at a humanitarian forum in Riyadh at the weekend, Tedros said of the pandemic question, "We don't see intensive and sustained community transmission in multiple countries."

He added that the current clusters in South Korea, Iran, and Italy may move in that direction, or the situation may change in other countries, thereby meeting the WHO definition of a pandemic.

Asked to clarify that definition, Tedros said a pandemic requires sustained "community transmission" in multiple countries.

The term "community transmission" is being widely used around the world in the context of COVID-19, but WHO has a specific definition: "community transmission is evidenced by the inability to relate confirmed cases through chains of transmission for a large number of cases."

WHO differentiates between "community transmission" and "local transmissions," a term which it uses to indicate "locations where the source of infection is within the reporting location."

So for the current outbreak, the WHO says that 26 countries (including the United States) have reported "local transmission," while the rest are all "imported cases only."

WHO designated the H1N1 swine flu outbreak in 2009 as a global pandemic, and explained that it had done so because human-to-human spread and community-level outbreaks were reported in at least two WHO regions.

Currently, COVID-19 cases are present in all six geographic regions recognized by the WHO—Asia, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia and Western Pacific.

However, compared to worldwide 88,948 total COVID-19 cases and 3,043 deaths (as of Monday), the CDC estimated that there were 60.8 million cases of H1N1 in the U.S. alone in the one-year period April 2009-April 2010.

And CDC experts estimated that the H1N1 death toll worldwide over that same 12-month period was 201,200 respiratory deaths plus an additional 83300 cardiovascular deaths.

The CDC refers to three criteria for a pandemic—a disease that kills; that has sustained person-to-person spread; and that involves worldwide spread.

"The fact that this disease has caused illness, including illness resulting in death, and sustained person-to-person spread is concerning," it says on its website in relation to COVID-19.

"These factors meet two of the criteria of a pandemic. As community spread is detected in more and more countries, the world moves closer toward meeting the third criteria, worldwide spread of the new virus."

The U.S. taskforce members stressed, again, that the risk to Americans is low.

"Things can change. But right now, today, on this day, Monday, if you look at the country as a whole, the risk is low," said Anthony Fauci, director of the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"We want people to go about and live their normal lives in this nation right now," said CDC director Dr. Robert Redfield. "There's no travel restrictions in the United States."



An article by Mia Jankowicz titled "China Has Recorded More Fully Recovered Coronavirus Patients Than People Still Infected, Suggesting It Is Overcoming the Epidemic" was posted at businessinsider.com on March 2, 2020. Following is the article.

Figures released by the Chinese government on Monday showed a new and optimistic trend: the total number of people to have recovered from the coronavirus exceeds the number who are currently sick.

Numbers reported by the state-controlled China Global TV Network (CGTN) put the total recoveries at 44,518 as of March 2.

The tipping point came on February 29, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. The trend has held for the two days since.

According to the latest figures, in China there has been a total of 80,174 cases—a figure which includes all people confirmed to have ever been sick, including those who died, and those who are well again.

In China, CGTN said, 2,915 had died (this includes one death in Taiwan), meaning that the remaining number of people still to be sick is smaller than the number of people to have got better.

To look at China's figures another way, there are:

- 80,174 all-time infections
- 2,915 deaths
- 44,518 recoveries
- 32,741 outstanding infections

There have been some reports of coronavirus patients recovering but then falling sick again, which would complicate the picture painted by the figures above. However, thus far re-infection seems not to be widespread.

Taken as a whole, the data suggests that China, which still has by far the majority of cases worldwide, could be over the worst of its crisis.

Mi Feng, a spokesperson for China's National Health Commission, told a briefing: "The rapid rising trend of virus cases in Wuhan has been controlled," according to Reuters.

"Outbreaks in Hubei outside of Wuhan are curbed and provinces outside of Hubei are showing a positive trend," he added.

China also announced that one of 16 hospitals rapidly built in Wuhan, the epicenter of the crisis, had discharged its last patient and would close, according to Reuters.

As of Sunday, around 9,000 cases have been reported outside of China, with growing hotspots in Iran, Italy and South Korea.



An article by Stephen Dowling titled “Coronavirus: What Can We Learn From the Spanish Flu [of 1918 That Killed Over 50 Million]?” was posted at bbc.com on March 2, 2020. Following is the article.

In the aftermath of World War One, a flu pandemic swept the world, killing at least 50 million people. What lessons can it teach us about Covid-19?

One hundred years ago, a world recovering from a global war that had killed some 20 million people suddenly had to contend with something even more deadly: a flu outbreak.

The pandemic, which became known as Spanish flu, is thought to have begun in cramped and crowded army training camps on the Western Front. The unsanitary conditions—especially in the trenches along the French border—helped it incubate and then spread.

The war ended in November 1918, but as the soldiers returned home, bringing the virus with them, an even greater loss of life was just around the corner.

■ Between 50 million and 100 million people are thought to have died.

The world has suffered many pandemics in the years since—at least three serious flu outbreaks among them—but no pandemic has been as deadly, nor as far-reaching.

As the world reacts to a headline-grabbing—yet far, far less deadly—outbreak of Covid-19, caused by a new coronavirus, BBC Future looks back to our 2018 special marking the 100th anniversary of Spanish Flu to see what we learned from one of the most devastating diseases in recent history.

Pneumonia is often the killer

Many of the people dying from Covid-19 are succumbing to a form of pneumonia, which takes hold as the immune system is weakened from fighting the virus.

This is something that it shares with Spanish flu—though it must be said that the death rate from Covid-19 is many times lower than that of Spanish flu.

Older people and those with compromised immune systems—who make up the majority of those who have been killed by the disease so far—are more susceptible to infections that cause pneumonia.

Few places escaped

Air travel was in its infancy when Spanish flu struck. But there are few places on Earth that escaped its horrific effects. Its passage across the world was slower, carried by railway and passenger steamer rather than airliners. Some places held out for months, or even years, before the flu arrived and wreaked its terrible toll.

But some places did manage to keep the flu at bay, often by using basic techniques that are still being used 100 years later.

In Alaska, one community on Bristol Bay escaped the flu almost unscathed. They closed schools, banned public gatherings, and shut off access to the village from the main road. It was a low-tech version of the travel restrictions that have been used in some areas today, such as China's Hubei province and northern Italy, in an effort to stop the coronavirus spreading.

Different viruses target different populations

Doctors have described the Spanish flu as the "greatest medical holocaust in history". It was not just the fact it killed so many, it was that so many of its victims were young and healthy.

Normally, a healthy immune system can deal reasonably well with flu, but this version struck so quickly that it overwhelmed the immune system, causing a massive over-reaction known as a cytokine storm, flooding the lungs with fluid which became the perfect reservoir for secondary infections.

Older people, interestingly, were not as susceptible, perhaps because they had survived a very similar strain of flu which had started to spread through human populations in the 1830s.

With the new coronavirus, the elderly and people with pre-existing illnesses are considered to be most at risk. Although still low, deaths have been highest in those aged above 80 years old.

Public health is the best defense

The Spanish flu broke out in a world which had just come out of a global war, with vital public resources diverted to military efforts. The idea of a public health system was its infancy—in many places, only the middle class or the rich could afford to visit a doctor.

The flu killed many in slums and other poor urban areas, among populations with poor nutrition and sanitation, and often those with underlying health conditions.

The flu spurred the development of public health systems across the developed world, as scientists and governments realized pandemics would spread more quickly than they had in the past.

Treating people on a case-by-case basis would not be enough—to deal with pandemics in urban settings, governments would have to mobilize resources as if they were at war, quarantining those showing signs of the disease, keeping minor cases separate to those suffering more serious illness, and limiting people's movements so the disease would burn itself out.

The public health measures we see being enacted today across the world as efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus are one of the Spanish flu's most enduring effects.



"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 by Costas Kantouris and Andrew Wilks titled "Syria Says 2 Warplanes Downed by Turkey [in Northwest Syria] As Tensions Soar" was posted at [apnews.com](#) on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Selcan Hacaoglu titled "Turkey's Killer Drone Swarm Poses Syria Air Challenge to Putin" was posted at [bloomberg.com](#) on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Gunnery Sgt. Robert Dea titled "US Marines Went to Thailand to Practice Storming Beaches With F-35Bs, Amphibious Vehicles and Rockets" was posted at [businessinsider.com](#) on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Dimitin Simes titled "Russia's Anti-Coronavirus Measures Irk China" was posted at [cnsnews.com](#) on Feb. 27, 2020.
- An article by Kelly Tyko, Jessica Guyan and Mike Snyder titled "Coronavirus Fears Empty Store Shelves of Toilet Paper, Bottled Water, Masks As Shoppers Stock Up" was posted at [usatoday.com](#) on Feb. 29, 2020.
- An article by Dake Kang titled "Wuhan's Biggest Temporary Hospital [Largest of 16] Could Close in March" was posted at [apnews.com](#) on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Rhea Mahbubani titled "A US Doctor [Dena Grayson] Predicts a 'Massive Surge' in Coronavirus Cases to 'Every Single State' in the Coming Weeks, But Says This Is 'Not the End of the World'" was posted at [businessinsider.com](#) on March 2, 2020.
- An article by Charlie Campbell titled "'They Are Overwhelmed': China's Animal Shelters Can't Cope With the Number of Pets Abandoned Due to COVID-19" was posted at [time.com](#) on March 2, 2020.
- An article by Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe titled "Coronavirus: Iran Temporarily Frees 54,000 Prisoners to Combat Spread" was posted at [bbc.com](#) on March 3, 2020.
- An article titled "Israel Severely Restricts Entry From Europe Due to Virus" was posted at [afp.com](#) on March 4, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Rina Chandran titled "Coronavirus Controls Increase Surveillance 'Danger'" was posted at [reuters.com](#) on March 5, 2020.



An article by Mollie Hemingway titled “Democrats Are Learning the Wrong Lesson From 2016 GOP Primary” was posted at thefederalist.com on March 3, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

The Democratic establishment seems more concerned with protecting themselves than with beating President Trump.

Heading out of the Nevada primary last week, the Democratic Party establishment was in a bit of a panic. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., had gotten the most votes in Iowa, New Hampshire, and Nevada. The establishment’s initial pick for the nomination, former Vice President Joe Biden, had been struggling for months on the campaign trail, sometimes seeming to be confused about who and where he was.

Megabillionaire Mike Bloomberg, who had entered the fray to save the party from Sanders and Biden, revealed himself to be a teensie tiny statue with clay feet after a humiliating debate performance. And the field remained very crowded, with most of the half-dozen or so non-Sanders candidates dividing up the very-liberal-but-not-socialist portion of the pie.

If the establishment really wanted to defeat Sanders, they had to figure out something big and figure it out quickly.

It wasn’t that he would go to the convention with the most delegates, necessarily. But if he marched in there with a strong plurality, it would be difficult to wrest the nomination from him.

The establishment did their best. Biden had always been slated to win the South Carolina primary on Saturday, but he won by even a larger margin than many expected. He won 48 percent of the vote, compared to only 20 percent for Sanders. Billionaire Tom Steyer, who placed third, dropped out that night.

Young former mayor Pete Buttigieg—who had respectable showings in Iowa and New Hampshire, a sizable following, and plenty of money—dropped out on Sunday. And Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who had been building support and was headed into a home state primary, dropped out on Monday.

The pundits tended to think that this was a great sign for the Democratic Party establishment.

The Washington Post’s Philip Bump, a man whose analytical skills do not include understanding where babies come from, wrote the paper’s analysis, “Moderate Democrats are doing what Republicans refused to do in 2016: Getting out of the way.”

Incidentally, “moderate” is the media’s preferred term for the collection of candidates whose views are far to the left of the average American but who are nevertheless not Bernie Sanders.

It’s absolutely true that the Democratic establishment figured out that a smaller field would help them get their preferred candidate. Who knows what sorcery and secret deals were made to get two viable candidates to leave the field prematurely.

But perhaps it's worth noting the minor detail that Republicans won the 2016 general election by not doing what these pundits suggest should have been done that year. Not only did they win a presidency that experts had predicted might not be won by a Republican for many years to come, they did not face the catastrophic House and Senate outcomes that the experts predicted would accompany a Donald Trump candidacy.

The failure to stop Trump from winning the Republican nomination at the very least contributed to the fact that Republican voters got two Supreme Court Justices, 191 other federal judges, tax cuts, tax reform, departure from the administrative state-emboldening Paris Climate Accord, departure from the Iran nuclear deal, an unprecedented rollback of federal regulations, and a more restrained foreign policy.

By being unable to stop a Trump candidacy, the Republican Party managed to tackle some very difficult divides between its establishment and the voters who enabled their power, including on policies that seemed to exclusively benefit corporations and the wealthy, immigration, trade deals, the U.S. relationship with China, regular entry into wars, failure to end wars, and whether to cower in the face of unfair media attacks.

The result is a party that is more unified than it's been in a while. It didn't just survive the 2018 midterms, it gained Senate seats even as it experienced the expected House losses. The party even has majority approval for the first time since 2005.

Why would the lesson for Democrats be that they must stop this type of possibility?

It is absolutely true that Sanders is an outsider the establishment resents, just like the establishment opposed Trump. And it's true that the D.C. establishment in both parties would prefer to hold power in a minority situation than to win elections.

Sanders is a threat to that establishment. He really does have a different foreign policy than Biden about interventionist wars.

On March 2 2020, Bernie Sanders wrote: "I do not believe we will defeat Donald Trump with a candidate like Joe Biden who supported the Iraq War."

He disagrees with the establishment's trade deals with China, and has for many years.

On May 2, 2019, Mr. Sanders wrote: "Since the China trade deal I voted against, America has lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs. It's wrong to pretend that China isn't one of our major economic competitors. When we are in the White House we will win that competition by fixing our trade policies."

And he certainly has less cozy ties to the corporate class than many of the establishment.

On March 3, 2020, Mr. Sanders wrote: "Joe Biden has received contributions from more than 60 billionaires. Does anybody think that we're going to bring about the change that we need when you are indebted to 60 billionaires?"

He represents a sizable contingent in the party. Yes, Democrats might be able to help Biden live to fight another day, until he once again reveals his apparent senility to voters. But in so doing, they might be killing their one candidate with energy and excitement in an effort to nominate someone like Biden.

If one didn't know better, this idea that the Democrats need to learn from Republicans' election-winning and party-unifying "mistake" sounds like they are following a playbook to not only lose the election but keep their nice little sinecures and perches at the networks, think tanks, newspapers, and other establishment positions.



An article by Sheriff David Clark (Retired) titled "When All Else Fails, Democrats Resurrect the Russia Trump Collusion Hoax" was posted at townhall.com on March 3, 2020. Following is the article.

Since Donald Trump was elected in 2016, Democrats in Congress, their voters, and the anti-Trumpers have spent the last three years trying to delegitimize his administration with their phony smear that Trump colluded with Russia to win. Over and over, they have peddled this false narrative, trying to get more mileage out of this dead horse.

There is no evidence that Trump colluded. Zero. Yet it hasn't stopped Democrats from trying to make it stick. They spent two years on a witch hunt that spent millions of dollars and wasted the nation's time chasing a ghost.

They knew it was a scam. But they also knew that what mattered was raw politics—using anything to get rid of Trump outside of the electoral process. Keep in mind that Robert Mueller's investigation in his 448-page report never established that Trump's campaign conspired with Russia during the election. That still does not matter. The phony narrative alone was damaging enough.

It was repeated and propagated by every liberal media outlet obsessively for two years while Trump had to fight the lie to keep it from sticking.

And now what? No collusion, but here we go again with the resurrection of the phony Russia collusion nonsense.

If you recall, I said after it was proven that there was no Russian collusion that we had not heard the end of this political mischief. I know Democrats. There is no getting rid of them completely. They never give up. They never quit. I warned that Democrats would try to get additional mileage out of the Russia collusion hoax.

Recently, leaks have appeared, and news cycles again claim that Russia is trying to help President Trump win in 2020. Still, no evidence. However, a few troubling things are emerging about these accusations.

First, this information was leaked out of a classified briefing to members of Congress. Yes, classified.

One news story pointed out that a Democrat lawmaker in the room told Vox's Alex Ward that, "the evidence was very compelling that Moscow favored Trump." The story also said that "it was not clear what specific steps, if any, US intelligence officials think Russia may be taking to help Trump." Yes, no specifics.

Another point written in the Vox story said that "while details about the exact nature of Russia meddling remain unclear, there is good reason to believe the reports—despite lingering questions. Oh really.

Democrat members of Congress immediately jumped in. Senator Sherrod Brown, without a stitch of evidence, claims that Trump is colluding with Russia to help his reelection. Jerry Nadler now wants more investigation of political interference by President Trump in the Justice Department.

Since Barack Obama became president, our intelligence agencies and investigative agencies have become infected with politics. Leaks are now a frequent occurrence of information that is supposed to be confidential, classified, and top secret. Politicizing intelligence is extremely dangerous and very troubling.

Integrity in our intelligence agencies and officials is vital to maintain trust and credibility. They get to operate in so much secrecy. The American people never know what they are doing. We blindly trust them, and congressional oversight is lacking. Recall this blind trust of these intelligence officials led a FISA judge to accept the Steele dossier to obtain wiretap approval of the Trump presidential campaign in 2016.

These leaks could deter other allied intelligence agencies like the UK MI6 or Israel's Mossad from sharing critical information out of fear that they may be outed as the source. Maybe about an impending attack, for instance. Shameful.

Confidential information must not be discussed or referenced by anybody briefed in a confidential hearing.

As a former sheriff, I know a thing or two about intelligence reports, the stages involved in the process, intelligence briefings, and how intelligence is used.

Intelligence and reports generated are estimates about the future. Opposing intel views are supposed to be included to prevent the decision-maker from being steered to decide by a person with a vested interest in what decision should be made. They are a compilation of bits and pieces of information that may reveal a picture.

Intel reports identify enemies, their intentions, and their capability of carrying out an attack. These reports are used by a decision-maker, like the president, that action by him may be necessary.

Another interesting observation is that US officials informed the Bernie Sanders campaign about Russian efforts to aid his campaign. When the FBI had information about Russia attempting to infiltrate the Trump campaign, Trump was not afforded that courtesy. Instead, the FBI used it to obtain a wiretap and put a plant inside the Trump campaign. Why the double standard?

Trump is a fighter. He understands what is going on here. When he recently ousted Joseph Maguire from the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) post, I smiled.

Maguire went around the president in briefing Congress. Maguire can't be trusted. When serving the president, trust is the vital virtue. Maguire should have told the president what he would brief Congress about.

The criticism about Trump's choice to be the next DNI, Richard Grenell, is the typical dribble that comes from swamp dwellers when another swamp creature isn't selected. Saying he is not qualified is a dog-whistle for saying that he's not one of them. That is a good sign. Trump needs someone he can trust.

The DNI post was created out of the 9-11 Commission report to bring cohesion and eliminate stove pipes within the intelligence community's 17 different agencies that were working separately and not sharing information before 9/11. Grenell will have the added and more difficult task of getting these agencies out of the business of politics.

So brace yourselves for another Russia collusion hoax. The only way to stop this is at the ballot box. Get ready for November because the swamp draining is not complete.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Generation I" was posted at patriotpost.us on Feb. 29, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

We used to refer to eras and ages, whether it involved jazz or bobbysoxers, but along the way, we began giving names to entire generations. We've had the lost, the greatest, the baby boomers, the "me" generation, followed by Generation X, Y (millennials), Z and, starting over, Alpha.

I would insist that the one that has recently come of voting age should more appropriately be designated the I's, the letter representing the qualities I most identify with them . . . ignorance, infantilism and idiocy.

How else to explain their preference for Socialism over Capitalism or their rapture over Bernie Sanders and their contempt for Donald Trump? I attribute it to their total ignorance when it comes to economics, history and current events.

Of course, a lot of it can be explained by the fact they were raised by over-tolerant parents who saw to it that their offspring never lacked self-esteem, but never required that the youngsters did anything to earn it. The kids were awarded cups and ribbons for merely showing up and treated like babies whenever their feelings were bruised or someone took exception to their foolish, baseless opinions.

They were taught how to put a condom on a banana, but never told what makes America unique and special. Instead, they were fed a load of politically correct tripe that blacks, illegal aliens, gays, transgenders and native Americans, were entitled to more rights and laxer laws than they or their parents, all because oth-

ers who came before them had suffered. They surely haven't been taught that certain things, such as money, homes and businesses, can be inherited; whereas some things, such as pain, grief and entitlements, can't.

It didn't help that, thanks to a thriving economy and an all-volunteer military, they have never had their mettle tested as were those who gave birth to the baby boomers. There's nothing like a decade-long Depression and a World War to instill a sense of gratitude and an awareness that things can go to hell in a nanosecond if people take their eye off the ball.

Finally, nobody—certainly not their teachers, the media or their parents—has bothered to help them grasp the miracle of being born an American, a baby born with inalienable rights—one of which used to be the right to be born in the first place.

■ Movie spotlight on FBI

I thought I was finished writing about the movies of 2019, but that was before I got around to watching "Richard Jewell." It was among the DVDs the studios sent out in December, but I had put it aside, thinking I wouldn't care to see it. I tend not to be very interested in movies that recreate events I have lived through.

What piqued my interest was that it was directed by Clint Eastwood. Generally, Hollywood heaps praise and awards on his movies, tending to ignore his politics in a way they don't with other conservatives. But the Academy bestowed only a single Oscar nomination on his latest film and that was for Kathy Bates in the Best Supporting Actress category. (She lost to Laura Dern for "Marriage Story," a movie I wouldn't see if you paid me.)

I found it totally engrossing even though it ran on for well over two hours. A lot of it was because of the performance by a guy named Paul Walter Hauser in the title role. He captured the essence of a man who longed more than anything in the world to be a member of law enforcement and wound up having his heart broken when the FBI teamed up with a corrupt media to turn his act of heroism on its head, portraying him as a monster.

It was 1996, while working as a security guard at Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park, that Jewell noticed a suspicious-looking bag under a bench. He called it to the attention of the police and it turned out to be large pipe bomb. He warned the NBC crew in a nearby tower and then, working with the local cops, Jewell started pushing the crowd back from the bomb site.

Unfortunately, the bomb exploded before the area could be completely cleared. One woman was killed, about a hundred other people were injured.

But the death toll would have been in the hundreds if not for Jewell's diligence.

Unfortunately, without the slightest bit of proof, the FBI decided that Jewell was the villain, not the hero, of the piece. They looked at this overweight loner who lived with his widowed mother and profiled him as just the sort of guy who would plant a bomb and then "discover" it so he could garner positive attention.

The FBI even stooped to trying to fool Jewell into signing a phony confession by pretending they admired him and wanted to use him in a training video in

which he would be shown signing necessary documents. Fortunately, Jewell knew enough to read the small print.

The Bureau and their cohorts in the media turned what should have been the three most glorious months of the guy's life into a living hell.

Richard Jewell died prematurely of a heart attack in 2006, but at least he lived long enough to hear a serial bomber named Eric Rudolph confess to the Atlanta bombing in 2005.

I suspect what appealed to Eastwood was the opportunity to give the FBI a well-deserved black eye. After what swamp creatures like Comey, McCabe, Strzok, Page and Ohr, have been up to, Clint no doubt saw a direct parallel between what the Bureau did to Richard Jewell and what these creeps have spent the last four years doing to Donald Trump.

It certainly explains why the movie, the director and the star, were all snubbed by the Motion Picture Academy. For that matter, it even explains why a lousy South Korean movie took home four major Oscars.

■ Cartoon

My favorite cartoon of the week was one by Mark Harris showing Adam Schiff suggesting to Jerry Nadler: "What if we charged him with obstruction of impeachment?"



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "The Gaying of America" was posted at patriotpost.us on March 2, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

It hasn't always been easy being a homosexual in America. For one thing, there used to be laws against sodomy. For another, you couldn't openly serve in the military. You also couldn't get security clearance to serve in the government because it was felt that a foreign enemy could too easily blackmail you into becoming a spy or a double agent.

It wasn't that long ago that the psychiatric community listed homosexuality as a psychiatric disorder, a form of lunacy.

There was also a time when if a boy or young man showed the slightest bit of femininity, he could expect to be taunted and bullied until suicide seemed to be the only escape. The play and movie "Tea and Sympathy" dealt with just such a situation.

For many years, Hollywood dealt with homosexual characters with a wink and a nod, casting the most obvious gays as arch butlers and villains, occasionally as non-threatening best friends. People like Eric Blore, Edward Everett Horton, Grady Sutton, Billy De Wolf, Charles Nelson Reilly, Alan Sues, Nathan Lane, Michael Jeter and Franklin Pangborn, built entire careers out of playing sissies, as they used to be called.

Some only portrayed straight men: George Grizzard, James Daly, Tom Hulce, Albert Dekker, William Eythe, Dick Sargent, Robert Reed, Roscoe Lee Browne and George Takei.

Then there were those who might have left you wondering, but highly suspicious, such as John Dall, Joel Grey, Kevin Spacey, John Glover, Clifton Webb, Victor Buono and Sal Mineo.

There were even a bunch who played romantic leads, including Rock Hudson, Van Johnson, Tab Hunter, Richard Chamberlain, Tom Tryon, Keith Andes, Tyrone Power, Caesar Romero and Montgomery Clift.

There was even a TV show, "Frasier," on which every male actor, along with the creator-producers of the show, were gay, except for Kelsey Grammer. They would be David Hyde Pierce, John Mahoney, Dan Butler and Edward Hibbert.

If you added in the Brits and the lesbian contingents, you could fill a phone book.

There is no question that a lot of homosexuals are talented, just as there's no question that a lot of them have been mistreated in the past.

The question is why the pendulum has swung so far in the other direction. If a homosexual character appears in a movie or on a TV series these days, he is certain to be portrayed as nicer, wittier and kinder than anybody else on the scene.

Having spent decades working in Hollywood, I can assure you that gays are no better or worse than any of the other people I have dealt with. But if no worse, they certainly aren't any better. I have known a few I regarded as friends, others who were catty, backstabbing bastards.

■ Boy Scouts

That all brings me to the fact that the Boy Scouts of America has just declared bankruptcy because they have had so many sexual abuse lawsuits filed against them. And if anything was ever inevitable, it's these lawsuits. How could it be otherwise once the BSA decided to be all-inclusive and permit homosexuals to be scoutmasters?

When homosexuals insist that not every gay man is a pedophile or a pederast, they're right. But when it comes to abusers of male children and teenagers, it is the exclusive domain of homosexuals, whether they're wearing Scout uniforms or clerical collars.

It was the fact that as the president of the BSA, Rex Tillerson promoted the idea of opening the doors to gay scout leaders that made me question President Trump's decision to name Tillerson his Secretary of State. And we all saw how well that turned out.

The other day, I received an email from Wesley Forgue: "I asked some of my liberal friends whether they agreed that having homosexuals serving as scout leaders was a good idea. They all said it was. I then asked them whether they would send their own sons on camping trips with a homosexual scout leader and they all said no."

"Well," I replied, "like most liberals, your friends are hypocrites. But at least they're honest hypocrites."

How I long for the good old days when the very wealthy all made headlines by getting drunk and carrying on with showgirls. These days, they all seem to want to use their money to reincarnate the Soviet Union in the United States.

■ Half a trillion dollars

Between them, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, George Soros, Charles Koch and Michael Bloomberg, control more than half a trillion dollars. Among their goals are to bankrupt this country in a pathetic attempt to control the weather; to gut the Second Amendment and confiscate the guns of law-abiding citizens; to throw open the border to an unlimited number of illegal aliens; to corrupt the legal system so that it protects criminals and not their potential victims; and to turn over control of the nation to bureaucrats at the UN and, of course, to themselves.

■ Many Bloomberg sound bites

Speaking of Michael Bloomberg, his plans to buy the nomination might be stymied by the number of sound bites that have accumulated over the years. It should probably not come as a surprise that a man who has declared himself a Democrat, a Republican and an Independent on various occasions, depending on the political climate at the time, has made some of the most embarrassing comments of anyone not named Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders.

For instance, Bloomberg is probably the only person, aside from China's despotic Xi Jinping who has ever said "Xi Jinping is not a dictator. He has constituents."

President Trump has constituents. Even Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has constituents. Xi Jinping has slaves and prisoners.

■ Reporting propaganda

Explaining why Bloomberg News never reports anything bad about China, the mini-mayor explained: "In China, they have rules. We follow those rules. If you don't follow those rules, you're out of that country."

One might reasonably ask why a news organization would wish to have a presence in a country where it can only report propaganda.

But I suppose in his defense, Bloomberg could say "Well, CNN did it first."

And so they did. As you might recall, during Desert Storm, CNN explained that they had never dared report the truth about Saddam Hussein's brutal regime because it would have meant closing their Bagdad bureau.

They never got around to explaining the point of having a bureau whose sole purpose was to put lipstick on the pig known as Saddam Hussein.

■ Biden and illegal aliens

Joe Biden apparently has decided that so long as he has so little chance of getting past both Bernie Sanders and Michael Bloomberg, he might as well squan-

der his few remaining shreds of dignity in a last ditch effort to win over Latinos by saying: "When it came to dealing with illegal aliens, I think it just took us (he and Obama) too long to get it right. We shouldn't have been deporting them. Without illegal aliens, this nation would collapse. Illegal aliens are a gift."

■ Electronic devices

Based on my own experience in raising a son, I shouldn't be offering advice to anyone else. But it occurs to me that in the past, when parents wanted to get the kids out of the way because they were making dinner or reading the newspaper, they would plunk them down in front of the TV and let them watch cartoons.

These days, the babysitter in most homes is some electronic device that is filling their little brains with God knows what drivel. It's certainly not making the tykes nicer, smarter, kinder, funnier or more polite.

It does seem to be slicing and dicing their attention spans, making them angrier, more envious and either asocial or anti-social.

On the other hand, the worst things to be said about the cartoons was that the kids might come to believe they could be blown up by TNT and still recover in five seconds, be good as new and get back to chasing the Road Runner.



"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 Joseph Zeballos-Roig titled "The Stock Market Erased \$6 Trillion in Wealth Last Week Over Coronavirus Fears—But 3 Charts Show Why It Won't Immediately Impact Most Americans" was posted at businessinsider.com on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Katie Warren titled "At Least 3,200 Amazon Delivery Drivers Will Be Laid Off by the End of April As the Company Keeps Cutting Ties With Contractors" was posted at businessinsider.com on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Jonathan Williams titled "Americans Continue to Vote With Their Feet Towards Low-Tax States" was posted at thehill.com on March 3, 2020.

Green New Deal

- Looking back to July, an article by Adam Shaw titled "AOC's Top Aide Admits Green New Deal About the Economy, Not Climate" was posted at foxnews.com on July 12, 2019.
- An article by Julio Rosas titled "AOC: Billionaires Should Not Exist Because They Get Rich by Underpaying Their Employees" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 19, 2020.

- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled “[Elizabeth] Warren: Green New Deal Doesn’t Go ‘Far Enough’ ” was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 21, 2020.
- An article by Alex Gangitano titled “Climate Group [350 Action] Endorses Both Sanders and Warren” was posted at thehill.com on March 2, 2020.
- An article by Sarah Young titled “Eco-Anxiety: Children Are Losing Sleep and Having Bad Dreams Over Climate Change; Study Finds” was posted at independent.co.uk on March 3, 2020.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Luke Funk titled “Another Cross-Border Tunnel Found in Arizona [the 126th Tunnel Discovered in Tucson Sector in 30 Years]” was posted at fox5ny.com on Feb. 29, 2020.
- An article by Robert Kraychik titled “Joe Biden Promises Pathway to Citizenship for 11 Million Illegal Aliens” was posted at breitbart.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Tim Stickings titled “President Erdogan Says ‘Millions’ of Migrants Will Head to Europe and the Continent Must Share the Migrant ‘Burden’ After Opening Turkey’s Borders, As Greeks Say They Fear ‘Invasion’ ” was posted at dailymail.co.uk on March 2, 2020.
- A Reuters article by Lefteris Papadimas and Alkis Konstantinidis titled “Greek Army, Police Dig in Along Turkey Border After Migrant Clashes” was posted at reuters.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Chris Tomlinson titled “Austria’s Chancellor Kurz: Turkey Opening Borders Is Attack on the European Union” was posted at breitbart.com on March 4, 2020.

Comments about weapons

- An article titled “Joe Biden Promises to Put Beto O’Rourke in Charge of Gun Control Efforts” was posted at foxnews.com on March 2, 2020.
- An article by David Harsayi titled “Bloomberg: Guns for Me [Heavy Security Team], But Not for Thee” was posted at nationalreview.com on March 3, 2020.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Kyle Cheney titled “Dems Tread Cautiously on Trump Investigations After Impeachment” was posted at politico.com on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Brian Flood and Brooke Singman titled “Trump Campaign Sues Washington Post for Libel Over ‘False, Defamatory Statements’ About Russia ‘Conspiracy’ ” was posted at foxnews.com on March 3, 2020.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Alex Woodward titled “Michelle Obama Petitioned to Run As Vice President to Stop Bernie Sanders, Report Says” was posted at independent.co.uk on Feb. 27, 2020.

- An article titled “Poll: California Voters Would Like to See Michelle Obama on Democratic Ticket” was posted at cbsbayarea.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Jonathan Cohn titled “Bernie Sanders Rolls Out \$1.5 Trillion Plan for Free, Universal Child Care” was posted at huffpost.com on Feb. 24, 2020.
- An article by Quinn Scanian titled “SC Rep. Jim Clyburn: ‘No Questions’ Tom Steyer’s Taking Support From Joe Biden” was posted at abcnews.com on Feb. 28, 2020.
- An article by Patrick Phillips titled “[Billionaire Tom] Steyer Drops Out of Presidential Race After Third-Place S.C. Primary Finish” was posted at live5news.com (Columbia, SC) on Feb. 29, 2020.
- An article by Stephen Colinson titled “Joe Biden’s Historic and Unbelievable Political Comeback Dominates Super Tuesday” was posted at cnn.com on March 4, 2020.
- An article by Tyler Pager and Jennifer Epstein titled “Obama, Biden Spoke to Pete Buttigieg After He Quit 2020 Race” was posted at bloomberg.com on March 2, 2020.
- An article by Alexander Burns, Jonathan Martin and Nick Corasaniti titled “Buttigieg and Klobuchar Endorse Biden, Aiming to Slow Sanders” was posted at nytimes.com on March 2, 2020.
- An article by Beth Baumann titled “[CNN’s] Van Jones Reveals Why Joe Biden Is Making a Comeback and It Has Nothing to Do With Last-Minute Endorsements [Elizabeth Warren Destroyed Michael Bloomberg in the Debate]” was posted at townhall.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by David NG titled “Rob Reiner: Joe Biden Will Be President When Trump Wakes From Super Tuesday Nightmare” was posted at breitbart.com on March 4, 2020.
- An article by Peter Weber titled “Joe Biden Is Now the Youngest Man [77] Vying for the Democratic Nomination [Sanders and Bloomberg Are 78]” was posted at theweek.com on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Robert Kraychik titled “Exclusive—Ann Coulter: Media ‘Will Protect Biden’ From ‘Senile Dementia’ Criticism” was posted at breitbart.com on March 4, 2020.
- An article by Joel B. Pollak titled “Elizabeth Warren Loses Home State of Massachusetts—in Third Place” was posted at breitbart.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Danielle Zoellner titled “Super Tuesday: Hillary Clinton Calls Bernie Sanders’ Campaign ‘Just Baloney’ ” was posted at independent.co.uk on March 3, 2020.
- An article by John Nolte titled “13 Reasons Bernie Sanders Is a Tougher Trump Opponent Than Joe Biden” was posted at breitbart.com on March 3, 2020.

- An article by Ledyard King titled "Many Young Voters Sat Out Super Tuesday, Contributing to Bernie Sanders' Losses" was posted at usatoday.com on March 4, 2020.
- An article by Tristan Justice titled "Mike Bloomberg Ends White House Bid After Spending Half a Billion Dollars" was posted at thefederalist.com on March 4, 2020.
- An article by Barbara Streisand titled "Why Trump Must Be Defeated in 2020" was posted at variety.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Ian Hanchett titled "Schumer to Kavanaugh and Gorsuch: 'You Will Pay the Price'—'Won't Know What Hit You' If You Make 'Awful Decisions'" was posted at breitbart.com on March 4, 2020.
- An article by Joshua Caplan titled "Chief Justice John Roberts Condemns Schumer's Threat: 'Inappropriate' and 'Dangerous'" was posted at breitbart.com on March 4, 2020.

News about the media

- An article by Cortney O'Brien titled "Chris Matthews Predicts Bernie Will Lose in a Landslide" was posted at townhall.com on Feb. 19, 2020.
- An article by Lachlan Markay titled "Conservative News Giant Newsmax Is Funding a Super PAC for Its Publisher's GOP Senate Ally [Maine Senator Susan Collins]" was posted at thedailybeast.com on March 2, 2020.
- An article by Ed Mazza titled "CNN Analyst [Paul Begaia] Predicts the Exact Date [Thursday, July 16 When the Democratic Nominee Gives His Acceptance Speech] Trump Will Dump Pence From the Ticket [to Add Nikki Haley]" was posted at huffpost.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Peter Weber titled "Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Kimmel and Trevor Noah Mark Joe Biden's Big Win [in South Carolina], Cringe at His Subsequent Gaffes" was posted at theweek.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Dr. Drew on Coronavirus: Hysterical 'Press Needs to Shut Up,' Fauci, CDC, Trump Doing What's 'Appropriate'" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 3, 2020.
- An article by Zachery Petrizzo titled "Trump Complains About Fox News on Hannity: 'I Think They're Trying to Be Very Politically Correct'" was posted at mediaite.com on March 4, 2020.
- An article by Pam Key titled "Whoopi Goldberg Floats Barack Obama for Biden's VP Pick" was posted at breitbart.com on March 4, 2020.

General interest

- A Reuters article by Andrew Chung titled "U.S. Supreme Court Turns Away Religious Bias Claim Against Walgreens" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 24, 2020.

- An article by Dan Wetzel titled “Patrick Mahomes Big Decision: Break the Bank or Give the Chiefs a Tom-Brady-Like Discount” was posted at yahoo.sports.com on Jan. 29, 2020.
- An article by Andrew Marchand titled “NFL Analyst Tony Romo Agrees to \$17 Million Per Year to Stay at CBS [Broadcasting Football Games]” was posted at nypost.com on Feb. 28, 2020.
- An article by Erin Richards titled “Math Scores Stink in America [Ranking 31 Out of 79 Countries]; Other Countries Teach It Differently and See Higher Achievement” was posted at usatoday.com on Feb. 29, 2020.
- An article titled “Harrison Ford’s ‘Call of the Wild’ to Lose \$50 Million at Box Office [Because It Cost \$125 Million to Make]” was posted at variety.com on March 1, 2020.
- An article by Kurt Helin titled “Steve Ballmer Is Buying Former Lakers’ Home *The Forum* [From New York Knicks James Dolan] to Speed New Clippers’ Arena” was posted at nbcsports.com on March 2, 2020.
- An article by Dawson White titled “Flock of 1,000 Birds Mysteriously Found Dead Near Missouri Town [of Sikeston in Southeast Missouri 34 Miles South of Cape Girardeau]” was posted at kansascity.co on March 3, 2020.
- An article titled “Toyota Adds 1.2 Million Vehicles to US Fuel Pump Recall” was posted at apnews.com on March 4, 2020.

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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.”