

## DEMOCRATS ARE GREAT LOVERS!

Happy Valentine's Day!

**THOUGHT:** Why is it the Log Cabin Republicans do not understand that the republican party wants to foreclose on their log cabins?

**DIDJANO?** After the recent election, hundreds of women went to Rochester, New York, to place "I Voted" stickers on the grave of Susan B. Anthony. How fitting!

**THE WALL.** trump admitted why he wants to build a wall at the southern border of the U.S. But there is the real reason and the fake reasons (better known as lies) he used. For this, I will use Undocumented Immigrants (UIs) instead of trump's "illegal immigrants".

*History proves walls are effective.* Really? The Great Wall of China was built by bad administrative default (read [this](#)) and was only slightly effective against low technology assaults in an area where tunneling was not a viable option. Hadrian's Wall did nothing to keep the "barbarians" out of Roman-controlled Britain, but was effective for taxation and was built in terrain not conducive to tunneling. The Berlin Wall was created to keep people IN, not out, and met with very limited success since East Berlin owned and operated a train that ran through the wall and multiple subway lines ran under it. All the great city walls in history, including Jericho's walls over eleven thousand years ago, were successfully breached - several many times. It's easy to tunnel under a wall where trump wants one and as one wag noted, it's easy to build longer ladders.

*Mexico will pay for it.* Mexico refuses. Trade agreements will not since that will generate no income for the government. US taxpayers would have pay for it and it isn't cheap. For the approximately 234-miles of new wall, it will cost over \$24 million per mile. A 6-lane Interstate highway costs only \$11 million per mile in an urban area, the most expensive area in which to build a road, and we get a lot more value out of the road.

*We already catch thousands of gang members trying to enter our country.* Last year, we caught 800 gang members trying to enter the country. We deported over 5,000 gang members who were already in the country, mostly legally.

*Most are coming to the US for better economic opportunities.* No, most are coming from the three "Northern Triangle" countries where they are being badly mistreated by their governments and criminal elements. Cutting aid to those countries makes the situation even worse. The leaders of those countries are so self-centered they see no need to help their citizens.

*It will stop drug importation.* That is extremely untrue. Heroin comes in through legal points of entry hidden in vehicles, mixed with other cargo that is legal, or other ways. That will continue. Fentanyl is mostly mailed (yes, through the postal services) from China with little from Mexico or points south. Marijuana often avoids southern legal border points, but it is insignificant when compared to what is grown in the US or brought in from Canada or other countries. Read [this](#) CNN article for related information.

*Most of the people are criminals.* Wrong again! Of those detected as "criminals", about 75% were people who violated immigration rules by overstaying visas or had drunk driving records. Only 1.7% of the individuals encountered by the US Border Patrol crossing between ports of entry had a real criminal record. There is no credible evidence provided to support a claim that 6,000 gang members deported by ICE belonged to MS-13 - in fact, that would have wiped out a large portion of the gang.

*Regan tried to build one for 8 years.* Per [this](#) Snopes article, Ronald Regan did not try to build such a wall, despite what trump tweeted. Regan wanted an open flow across that border.

*It will reduce the number of UIs.* Most of the UIs are people who overstayed their visas.



The real reason was disclosed in a discussion between trump and members of Congress, one Democrat asked trump why he really wanted the wall. He responded that it would make him look good. That response was verified by others at the meeting, including some of trump's staff.

Some of the most conservative republicans in Congress asked trump to give up on building a wall and focus on requiring all employers to use the federal database to ensure all their employees are in the country legally. He refused. As reported in an earlier edition of this newsletter, he would have to fire some of his lowest-paid employees since they are UIs!

The wall is silly. We can build an efficient, humane, high-tech "wall" for a less money. See [this](#) CNN video about how people will continue to tunnel under any physical wall built.

I will remind you of one of the quotes from last month: *The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.* Bible, Leviticus, 19:34

trump, thy name is hypocrisy.



**REAL EMERGENCIES.** [This](#) USA Today article lists six real emergencies trump should address over a border wall. I think you will agree with most of them.

**HISTORICAL QUOTE.** This quote is significant for its history as it is for its words and meaning. This is about immigrants, particularly those from south of the U.S. *I would build a wall of steel, a wall as high as Heaven, against the admission of a single one of those Southern Europeans who never thought the thoughts or spoke the language of a democracy in their lives.* ~ Georgia Governor Clifford Walker at a 1924 convention of the Ku Klux Klan. Does this sound like anyone we know

today? Read about it [here](#).

**CANNOT PAY BILLS?** So, trump says he can relate to federal employees who cannot pay their bills. As someone who is well known for shortchanging creditors, he does not seem to understand the difference between "cannot" and "will not".

**SHUTDOWN TERMINATION.** By the time you read this, the federal government shutdown should be at an end. Still, it can be fun to see how the experts thought it might end. Read [this](#) Politico article giving the opinions of 11 such experts.

**CAUCUS SWITCH.** Some states are switching from caucuses to primaries. Read [this](#) Politico article to find out which ones and what impact that may have on the 2020 election.



**WAR!** In all of our country's history (1775 - 2018), the US has been involved in one or more wars or conflicts for 228 years and had only 16 years with no conflicts. We now have forces in 40% of the countries on our planet. The wrong-wings say the US wins wars. History says that is not so. The first war the US declared (War of 1912, which was actually a part of the first world-wide war) was a draw at best. [This](#) Smithsonian article, and others that link from it, provide interesting and disturbing reading. Can we have a little more peace?



**GERRYMANDERING.** In November, the voters in Missouri approved an amendment to the state's constitution that prohibits gerrymandering, impacting only districts for state office. Now republicans are leading the charge to abolish or change that amendment. Read [this](#) NPR article to understand why they are not the only ones who want to change it.

**FELON VOTING RIGHTS.** The Florida voters overwhelmingly passed a state constitutional amendment in November to restore voting rights to felons who have served their time. More than a million people will have their voting rights restored. Read [this](#) NPR article about the fight to justice.

**ELECTION FRAUD.** For years, the republicans have said it exists. Now, they proved they were right and they were the ones were doing it. Of course, I write about the fraud that happened with absentee ballots in North Carolina. Since the election, it has come to light that it was initially investigated in 2010 and that it involves more than absentee ballot fraud. [This](#) Snopes article tells you more.

**EVOLUTION.** Some claim there is no evidence for evolution. You know who they are. However, [here](#) is a NPR article that talks about how and why the granary weevil evolved. I guess the uneducated think the thing simply burst into being from a single grain of wheat.

**QUOTE:** *The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.* ~ Isaac Asimov

### **TERRORISM & ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION VS. NO AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE.**

Which kills more? The so-called conservatives would say terrorism and "illegal immigrants". The facts say that by a margin of at least 10 to 1 and likely much more, the lack of affordable health care is the bigger killer. Check out [this](#) Snopes article.



**BULLYING.** Per [this](#) NPR article, it seems bullying in schools is worse in areas of Virginia that voted for trump than areas that voted for Clinton in the last presidential election. That was in a 2017 study. A 2015 study showed no meaningful difference. Draw your own conclusions.

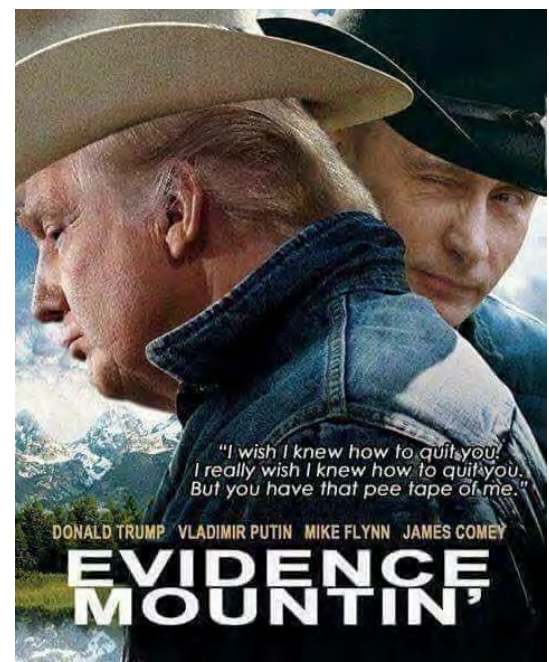
**JOKE:** Police officer to Trump supporter: "Do you know why I pulled you over?"

Trump supporter: "No, sir."

Officer: "You were doing 65 in a 30."

Trump supporter: "But Hillary's emails!!"

**QUOTE:** This was given as advice to students in 2004 when the speaker was given an honorary degree for delivering the address at Wagner College. There is a Huffington Post article on it [here](#), complete with a link to a video of it. The words of advice seem suitable for those trying to migrate here. The quote: *Don't give up. Don't allow it to happen. If there's a concrete wall in front of you, go through it, go over it, go around it, but get to the other side of that*



*wall.* ~ donald j trump Some professors and alumni requested the school to rescind the degree.

**THE END OF THE WORLD!** This is for giggles. [Here](#) is a 1958 television episode where a prophet predicts the end of the world to an old west town. Much of the dialogue could pertain to today. The prophet/conman is named trump. Yes, a wall (of umbrellas) is involved. Thanks, Jon, for furnishing this and so much more!

**QUOTE:** *Here in Canada, many of us believe we are witnessing the fall of the U.S. empire. Would a civilized country limit health care or food assistance for the poor; leave crops rotting in the fields; destroy the educational system; target women and attempt to eliminate their reproductive rights while refusing to help resulting babies; abuse desperate immigrants; pretend to believe in Christianity while perverting and debasing its tenets; refuse to protect the earth from destruction? The world is watching.* ~ Paul F. Haacker

**RENEWABLE ENERGY.** Renewable energy is good for the environment and the economy by creating jobs and lessening costs. Have you thought about which country's economy is likely to benefit the most? It will be the country that puts the most into advancing and using renewable energy. [This](#) Newsweek article makes the case that the winner will be China, not the U.S.

**BIRTH CONTROL.** A U.S. judge blocked trump administration rules that permitted employers to opt out of providing women with no-cost birth control. Regretfully, it applies only to the jurisdictions in the lawsuit, 13 states and D.C. [This](#) Snopes article gives more information.

**HEALTH CARE.** It seems medical facilities in the U.S. are not good enough for Senator Rand Paul. He is going to Canada for surgery. Of course, that is counter to what he wants for the U.S., but claims that going to a private hospital is the opposite of socialized medicine. Obviously he doesn't understand that private hospitals in Canada also share funding through insurance companies and government subsidies. Read about it [here](#).

**CENSUS WIN.** A federal judge has ordered trump's citizen question to be removed from the 2020 census. This was seen by many as potentially a way to deport non-citizens. You can expect trump to appeal the ruling, but there are 5 more lawsuits still pending on the issue that were filed by dozens of states, cities, and various groups. Read about it in [this](#) NPR article.



**CLIMATE CHANGE.** There is a report out, documented [here](#) in LiveScience, saying we have a 64% chance to limit catastrophic climate change. That is by phasing out fossil-fuel emitters such as coal-burning power plants, airplanes, gasoline automobiles and such. Any facility or vehicle using fossil fuels would have to be replaced when its life is over with something that emits zero carbons, but we must start now. This plan is unworkable. It usually takes society 4 or 5 decades to switch from one power source to another. We must try to do better.

To go with that, [here](#) is a short LiveScience article that covers 275 scientific studies on climate change published over the last 9 years.

**KKK IN CONGRESS?** I do not like to lead you to an article that requires a subscription to read it, but this is one that is worth it. You can read it without a subscription. The NYT lets you to read a few articles without subscribing. If you are over the limit, delete your cookies or use a different browser. Here it is:

Iowa Congressional Rep. Steve King has taken a lot of flak from many lately because of his recent remarks. The remarks are not new. [This](#) article lists several. His own party has turned against him. Up until recently, they supported him. Why the change of heart? They saw continuing to support him would be detrimental to the party. Thank Pam Kennedy for this!

**DEFINITION.** MAGA = Moscow Agent Governing America

**IT IS NOT JUST US.** Regretfully, the so-called "conservative" movement is now world-wide and not for the better. Read [this](#) interesting NPR article about how it threatens democracy.

**COSTS.** trump wants \$5.7B to build about 750 miles of ineffective wall. That is \$7.6M per mile or about the same average cost of building a 6-lane Interstate highway. We already know that improving and enlarging national infrastructure generates more profit for companies in America. We also know that refusing new immigrants hurts American businesses. So, why a wall?

**ART.** How would art respond to Karen Pence teaching in a school that bans gays? [Here](#) is The Late Show's take on it. Enjoy the video!

**WHY SO BAD?** So, why is it trump is so mean? [This](#) CNN article explains a lot. It is a sad but interesting read and tells why he needs to listen to Nancy Pelosi.

**UNQUALIFIED!** When the current US Secretary of Commerce states he does not understand why unpaid federal workers do not take out a loan, he demonstrates he is so out of touch with reality that he should not be in his current or any federal position. [Here](#) is a CNN video and article covering the statement.

**TWO MINUTES TO DOOM.** The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock at two minutes to midnight last year and are keeping it there this year. You have to go back to 1953, when the cold war was building up, to find it that bad. Check out [this](#) CNN article on it. You can guess the cause. We must work to turn back the clock!

**MILKMAN MODEL.** I'm happy to say some of the big brands in our lives are trying to move to reusable containers. [This](#) Snopes article covers it. This is a good move for our environment.

**FLORIDA BLACKFACE.** The Florida official in charge of the department overseeing elections has just resigned after photos of him in blackface surfaced. He says he was dressed as a "Hurricane Katrina victim". Of course, he was appointed by the republican governor who made racially divisive comments about Andrew Gillum. Read [this](#) Snopes article to learn more.

**ARRESTED!** It may be the first of several. Roger Stone has been arrested. [Here](#) is a CNN video showing the arrest. [This](#) article gives more information including the probability that several people very close to trump may have been involved or at least have knowledge.

**DON'T GIVE UP.** At the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm, Native American athlete Jim Thorpe's shoes were stolen the morning of his most important meets. He found an odd and old shoe in a trash can. It was too big, so he wore an extra sock on that foot. A teammate lent him another shoe. That one was too small, but he crammed his foot in anyway. With those mismatched shoes, he went on to win two gold medals. [This](#) Snopes article tells the full story.

**QUOTE:** *Basic rule of life: you don't negotiate with terrorists or petulant children.* ~ Annie OConnell. Also see [this](#) Harvard Business Review article on negotiating.

**CORRUPTION.** Transparency International researches business leaders every year and prepares a report on corruption in countries throughout the world. In the 2017 report, the U.S. ranked #16. In the 2018 report, which has just been published, the U.S. ranked #22. We are slipping and I bet you can guess some of why. Read the report's executive summary [here](#) to get the full list of the 180 countries ranked and a lot of other interesting information.

**CHAIR'S LETTER:** 2019 is going to be a tough year for Democrats. In Frederick County, Corey Stewart took 60% of the vote against a stellar lifelong servant in Tim Kaine. Frederick County Commissioner of the Revenue Ellen Murphy announced her retirement and immediately endorsed former Chair of the Republican Committee Seth Thatcher. Four seats on the Frederick County Board of Supervisor are up for election including the Countywide Chair's position all held by Republicans. Four positions are also up for FC School Board including the Chair.

Capturing even one of these seats will require a herculean effort. It will require outstanding candidates with clearly scripted positions on key concerns, issues like education, fire, rescue, and police safety. It will require funds to support such candidates.

On a state ticket, things aren't much better. In the delegate 29th Chris Collins, so far, is running unopposed. Mavis Taintor is running against Tea Party incumbent LaRock. Wendy Gooditis, our only local Democrat, first elected two years ago will be facing her first re-election bid.

Ronnie Ross is facing a monumental task of unseating Jill Vogel who is well-financed and a multiple term incumbent.

Unlike in 2018, we have no federal election and no combined unified campaign.

In the four-year election cycle that goes from presidential year to presidential year this current election year typically has the lowest voter turnout. So ask yourself. Are you going to get out and vote? Do you know what the issues are? Do you know the candidates' positions? And most importantly, are you planning to support Democrats?

2020 is just around the corner. Already it seems like a new unheard of Democrat announces his or her bid for the presidency every day. Even the former CEO of Starbucks is contemplating a run. With each new announcement Trump's chances to be re-elected in 2020 increase.

Why are these state elections so important? A few seats moving from red to blue will mean that the Democrats will take control of both chambers of the Legislature as well as the Executive branch. With that control comes a sizable increase in the odds of keeping Virginia anti-Trump. There cannot possibly be a more important reason than that.

Frankly, I'm tired of the chaos. I want my government to return to some semblance of normalcy and return our country to a world leader that can be trusted by our allies.

I hope you will join me in resisting the urge to accept that Trump has become the norm and that this is as good as it gets.

What can you do? Join the local committee. So far only 50 of the more than 250 2018 members have rejoined for 2019. Support Democrat candidates with your time, your voice and your money. Volunteer to be a part of a candidates committee. Decide to run for office. Talk to your friends, family members, and neighbors about what candidates stand for. Most importantly live the Democratic values.

Fondly, - [Bill](#) -

Thanks for being a Democrat!

[Ph71](#)