

Editorial Viewpoint

What You Are Not Learning

While the press, the Democrats and the Deep State persist in their efforts to overturn the results of the 2016 Presidential election there are a few minor matters around our dangerous world they are ignoring. China, for example, is constructing a major joint services base in Djibuti, not far from a US base. A tiny country with no significant resources, Djibuti has a useful location for shadowing our forces and aggressive force projection in a difficult part of the globe. It's location at the confluence of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden controls the Southern access to the Suez Canal, controls the Northern approaches to the Horn of Africa and has easy access to the Strait of Hormuz. From Djibuti it is easy to project down the coast of East Africa. In short, a perfect location from which to make consequential mischief, especially the maritime kind. On a related subject, China has announced the intention to build a navy capable of challenging the US Navy globally. Staying on the subject of China, the One Belt One Road initiative projects China's interests and power along the ancient Silk Road from China through the Central Asia "Stans" to the Mediterranean Sea, thence up into the Balkans. Billed by China's leadership as an effort to bring development and prosperity to the poor countries along its route it is in reality an effort to increase China's power at the expense of the so called beneficiary states along its path. Pakistan's new Prime Minister assumes office so deeply in debt to China he is forced into a virtual alliance or bankruptcy. This is the pattern with Chinese "assistance" and "development" in the third world. Just ask the African nations that invited China to "invest" in their resource sector and ended up with Chinese engineers, planners and developers and laborers (abjuring locals) and battalions of Chinese PLA for "security" purposes. Then there is China's illegal claims of sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea, backed up with the militarization of the islands it has illegally constructed on the sand bars and shoals in the disputed island chains of the Spratleys and the Paracells. That is not all of China's mischief, just the high points. How much have you heard or read, how much knowledgeable analysis from the mainstream media? How much of world trade including ours flows through these areas? They, the MSM, have treated payoffs to porn stars as matters of great moment to the Republic, but redrawing the world map of power projection and trade is not worth their effort. Then there is Iran. The mullahs' meddling in Syria is billed as an effort by them to support fellow Shiites, Alawite branch, led by President Assad. In reality

it is an effort to project Iran's power across Syria to the Mediterranean. From there they can spread their particular form of murderous Islamic fundamentalism more effectively North into Europe and South through the rest of the Levant and West into the Magrheb. They already control Lebanon. From Lebanon and Southern Syria, acting through their clients Hezbollah and de facto ally Hamas they hope to raise the pressure on Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. You've heard and read much about our allies' disapproval of President Trump's withdrawal from Obama's masterful Iran deal, but virtually nothing about how full of holes it is and how much of the money (\$150 billion, \$1.5 billion in cash) has been found on the bodies of Hamas and Hezbollah terrorists and their overrun hideouts. Iran pushed its military presence in Syria to within 20 miles of Israel and then Israeli and American air forces destroyed those bases. The ongoing US effort to get Russia to use its position with Assad to move Iran out of these sensitive areas has much to do with the President's soft peddling criticism of Putin even as he ratchets up the pressure of sanctions on Putin's cronies. Haven't read or heard much about that from the mainstream media have you? Venezuela's socialism caused implosion is happening just across the Caribbean Sea from the South and Southeast coasts of the US. This chaos has resulted in nearly 2 million refugees from what was the richest country in all of Latin America into its neighbors with major consequences for all. Oil production in the nation with the largest known oil reserves in the world has fallen off a cliff because of a succession of incompetent political appointees to operate the state run oil company. Socialism at work. Remember that when Bernie Sanders and his Democratic Socialist supporters are selling their program of "free stuff". Milton Friedman (God bless him) wrote a book, There's No Such Thing As A Free Lunch. The price of state run largess will always be paid by "the people". And not just the 1%. The media, while occasionally referring to the misery in Venezuela, steadfastly refuses to put the blame where it belongs, on the Socialism of Chavez and Maduro. Closer to home you may be aware that in the first incarnation of the Sandinista government of Nicaragua headed by Daniel Ortega, his wife Rosario Murillo, and his brother Humberto, Russia [the USSR at the time] was constructing a large airbase capable of handling Russia's largest strategic bomber and heavy lift air transports. When the Sandinistas were defeated in an election (maybe the last truly free one in that country) that project came to a halt. Well now it's back under construction. As Ortega and



Ed Scanlon has his opinions

his kleptocratic friends have regained power and are now making war on their own people in order to retain power, their partnership with Russia is back in full force. Together they are doing their best to change the strategic balance in our own hemisphere. The Russians are not only elbow deep in the Syria/Iran theater, or Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. They continue their efforts to destabilize the governments of Ukraine, Georgia, the Baltic nations, Poland and Hungary. They have increased the tempo of their operations in the Bering Sea and the Alaska portion of the Northern Pacific. This is accompanied by their continuing militarization of the Arctic where we and our allies have significant interests. This catalogue of hot spots and points of interest around the world is far from complete, but every one of them has major implications for the welfare of the US and our national security. Where are the media, the Democrats, the Deep State in these matters? Not serving your interests and mine. But they are forging ahead with their attempt at a coup against the elected President of the United States. Bear that in mind this November.

Family & Marriage

Trust Is Risky



Roger Rollins, Family and Marriage Coalition

"There are people I know who won't hurt me. I call them corpses." - Randy K. Milholland

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." - Bible

The topic of trust comes up frequently in discussions about relationships, especially in marriage. Let's look at two kinds of trust.

The first type of trust relates to our ability to be perfect, or perhaps just our ability to meet another's expectations. The second is connected to intentional deception.

Toni is a perfectionist. She likes everything just right, in its place, and ahead of time. Her husband Tom is very laid back and easy-going. His motto is: don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff.

These differences were interesting and even exciting when they were dating. Each saw qualities in the other that they kind of wished they had. But then they married and the attractions became irritations.

Tom can never do things exactly like Toni expects, and he is seldom on her time schedule. Toni is constantly nagging Tom. She now says she doesn't trust Tom at all. And this distrust is driving Tom in the wrong direction. He hasn't deliberately deceived Toni yet, but he's thinking about it.

According to The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, trust implies an expectation that someone or something will perform in a certain way. Tom and Toni are struggling with the proven fact that we are all different.

In addition to being different, we all make mistakes. We have a tendency to be thoughtless and selfish, to be self-protective. As a result we may unintentionally

hurt our spouse. Repentance and forgiveness comes into play here.

We've all heard the movie line that says "Love means never having to say you are sorry." The movie gives the very wrong impression. Love means being willing to say "I'm sorry," and also to say "I forgive you."

In the case of missed expectations or mistakes, the solution is not necessarily a change in an individual's behavior but willingness for both parties to communicate and to practice unconditional love. Compromise may be necessary, but both need to agree.

We all spend a lifetime attempting to address distrust based on mistakes and missed expectations. Most of us also have to deal with the other kind of distrust that comes from deliberately being deceived.

Once again the distrust occurs because of a failure to meet expectations, but in this case the failure is deliberate. Failures in this case range from little "white" lies about not being home when someone calls (but we really are) to addictive behaviors and extramarital affairs.

Deliberate deception is difficult to deal with because it involves choice. If someone deceives us we know they have chosen to do so. We wonder why. Maybe it was because they believed it would benefit them in some way.

In the business world deception often has monetary profit as its motive. This is not right but it can be explained, and we have all kinds of laws to provide protection from such deception.

In marriage the perceived benefit from deliberate deception may be to avoid criticism or punishment or it may be to enjoy something we know is wrong or at least would

not be approved by our spouse.

Deliberate deception also may occur if a person has a different or arbitrary set of values or more likely if a person has a weak commitment to any values. In this case the establishment of trust is very difficult.

A marriage between two individuals with different values will find survival very difficult, but hopefully such a marriage is rare; premarital preparation can help significantly here.

The problem normally is a weak commitment to the accepted values. In this case trust will normally be fostered with the establishment and maintenance of specific boundaries. For example, the wife will trust her husband around other woman as long as he is not alone with them.

Apply unconditional love to deal with mistakes and imperfections, and include boundaries when deliberate deception occurs.

The Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) provides resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 640-4689, rogerrollins@aikenfamco.com, www.aikenfamco.com.



Are We There Yet?! Moses and the Exodus cast photo. (Photos by Dayna Singleton)

Hurricane preparation: Clemson Extension offers tips, resources to prepare stormwater ponds

CHARLESTON — As South Carolina braces for Hurricane Florence's potential landfall, Clemson Cooperative Extension agents are offering reminders and resources for maintaining and preparing stormwater ponds in the event that severe weather strikes.

Stormwater pond Stormwater ponds are one of the most recognizable stormwater management devices in residential communities, especially in the coastal counties of South Carolina. Image Credit: Clemson University "Stormwater ponds are probably the most frequently used practice in our communities to help manage flood events. It is essential that residents do what they can to protect their function so that they are able to manage these large flooding events without impacting residents' properties and roadways," said Guinn Wallover, Extension Water Resources Program Team member in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties.

With that, Extension agents say there are simple steps residents can take before a storm to help ensure that there is nothing inhibiting the flood management capabilities of stormwater ponds, which are designed to receive runoff and mitigate

flooding.

"People tend to forget that is their purpose, and they often think they're just aesthetic features," said Amy Scaroni, program coordinator for Carolina Clear,

Clemson Extension's statewide stormwater education program. "So they could be temporarily managing them in a way that's not allowing the capacity for additional flood waters coming in. That's one of the reasons we

want to give these tips to make sure that the ponds aren't overly full before a storm comes and

Hurricane Prepare
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