Opinion / Editorial

DANGER SIGNS AMERICA IS AT A THIRD WORLD, LOW LEVEL OF TRUST

By Bill Connor

This past week Americans were able to see the evidence against Charlie Kirk's alleged murderer, Tyler Robinson. The preliminary hearing for Robinson in Provo, Utah allowed the prosecution to exhibit enough evidence for the judge to order a trial. Thankfully, this hearing was public and broadcast nationwide. Before the hearing, podcasters like Candace Owens had pushed multiple conspiracy theories. For example, Owens claimed Tyler Robinson never set foot on the Utah Valley University (UVU) Campus where Kirk was killed. That lie, like so many, was shot down by videos of Robinson's mother's vehicle on video on campus. All the conspiracy theories involving Egypt, French Foreign Legion, Mossad, etc. were disproved by the evidence. Regardless, several of the conspiracists doubled down. Owens claimed all those acknowledging the credibility of evidence were "Zionists" (Direct accusation of Candace Owens, which includes even antisemite Nick Fuentes). This level of conspiracism in the face of overwhelming evidence is seen in third world, low-trust societies we are dangerously close to becoming.

First, it's important to remember why we are at this point. Throughout the Obama administration, Americans saw various scandals (Fast and Furious, Learner IRS scandal, Benghazi, etc.) and gaslighting versus accountability. Obama and his CIA and FBI directors knew the Russian collusion smear against Trump was a Hillary Clinton campaign fraud scheme. Regardless, they gave the hoax credibility to undermine

Attorney Bill Connor
BILL CONNOR LAW FIRM, LLC
1408 RUSSELL STREET, SUITE 11, ORANGEBURG SC 29115
P 803-937-5571

Trump when he took office. In 2020, Americans were fed lies about the Hunter Biden laptop, including by 51 senior intelligence officials signing the infamous letter, to secure Joe Biden's election. In 2022, Elon Musk purchased Twitter and then exposed the Biden administration censorship of conservatives that officials and media had covered up. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Anthony Fauchi and others pushed a bogus "wet market" theory of COVID origin to protect their involvement. This involved censoring and stigmatizing those asserting the Wuhan lab leak theory (which most scientists agree was the origin of the pandemic). The attempts of the Biden administration and media to gaslight about Joe Biden's mental status were exposed during Biden's disastrous and candidacy ending debate. Numerous "Conspiracies" were proven to exist.

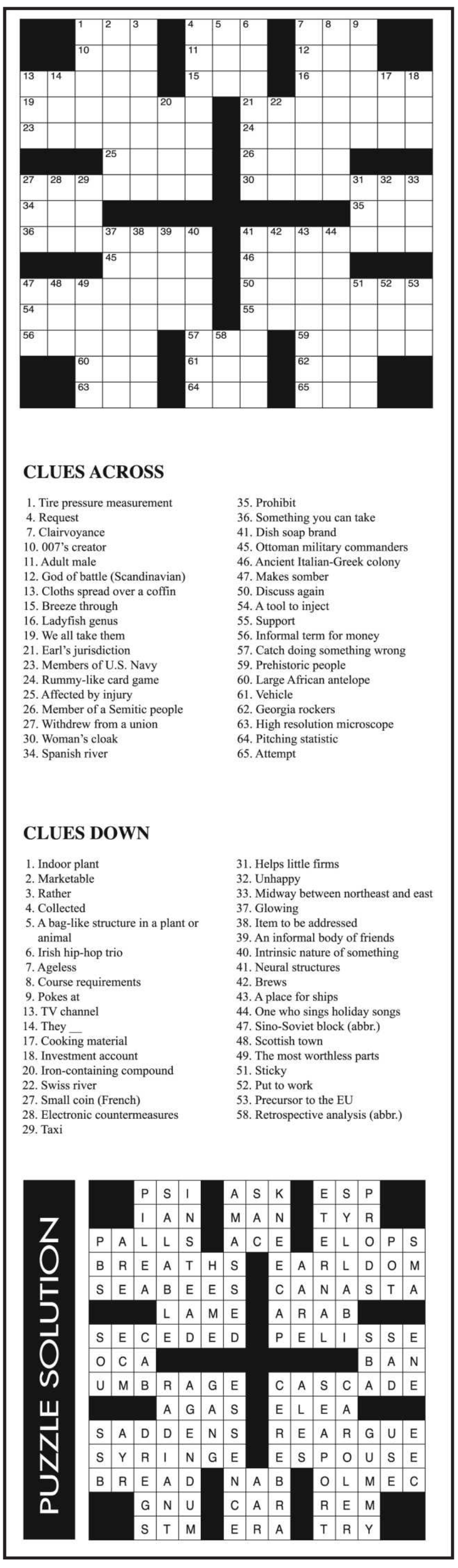
For the record, I wrote about the Wuhan lab leak as the origin of the pandemic from the beginning. I also called foul on the Hunter Biden laptop coverup immediately. I am not against questioning. However, the conspiracy theories with Kirk's murder have reached the absurd. I watched the Tyler Robinson preliminary hearing. First, it is a lawyer's top duty to zealously represent the client. Tyler Robinson has top lawyers who defending his life and they know about all the evidence available. They have lived this case for almost year and Rule 5 requires the prosecution to produce all their evidence to defense. Robinson's lawyers know the evidence and are not even insinuating the conspiracy theories are true.

During the prelim hearing, the prosecution produced overwhelming evidence against Robinson. This includes multiple confessions by Robinson as recounted by the most important person in Robinson's life, his trans lover Lance Twiggs. Additionally, Robinson's own family turned him in to authorities. Confessions included text message and written confession left behind. Evidence at the prelim included videos of Tyler Robinson in the vehicle registered to him and his mother on the Utah Valley Utah campus the day of the murder multiple times. Despite Robinson living over 400 miles away and not a student.

Multiple videos show Robinson walking around campus and taking steps to the roof. The screwdriver Robinson used to assemble/disassemble the murder weapon was found on the roof with his DNA (only a one in a trillion chance it was not Robinson's DNA). The murder weapon was found wrapped in a towel with Robinson's DNA and Twiggs. Multiple experts testified under oath, subject to perjury, that Kirk was killed by a bullet that would have come from the type of murder weapon used. Finally, reporters and podcasters and others at the hearing have reported that the Judge allowed the playing of a "smoking gun" video. This video shows Robinson come on the roof, put the rifle together, run to the edge and take the shot killing Kirk. Despite everything, the Owens conspiracists continue to insanely gaslight themselves and others.

When I have deployed to third world countries in the Middle East and Afghanistan with the military, I remember being dumbfounded at the bizarre conspiracies and gaslighting in the face of reality. In Egypt, Kuwait, Afghanistan I would read or listen to insane conspiracies, like Osama Bin Laden working for either Mossad or the CIA. That Israel was responsible for almost every negative thing that happened in the Arab countries even when it would have been impossible. Evidence to the contrary was seen, as with the Kirk conspiracies, as fake or part of the conspiracy. Because the governments and newspapers of those countries had lied so many times (similar to what happened with us) the people lived in a fantasy world. That is unfortunately where many Americans are stuck are now. They feel they cannot believe anything.

The way back is for our national leaders and institutions to demand absolute unvarnished truth. As the Bible tells us "you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:32. We must handle the truth.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure measurement
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
13. Cloths spread over a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Earl's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Withdrew from a union
30. Woman's cloak
34. Spanish river
35. Prohibit
36. Something you can take
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
47. Makes somber
50. Discuss again
54. A tool to inject
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. High resolution microscope
64. Pitching statistic
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Marketable
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish hip-hop trio
7. Ageless
8. Course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV channel
14. They __
17. Cooking material
18. Investment account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Small coin (French)
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Item to be addressed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place for ships
44. One who sings holiday songs
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Scottish town
49. The most worthless parts
51. Sticky
52. Put to work
53. Precursor to the EU
58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

PUZZLE SOLUTION

		P	S	I		A	S	K		E	S	P		
		I	A	N		M	A	N		T	Y	R		
P	A	L	L	S		A	C	E		E	L	O	P	S
B	R	E	A	T	H	S		E	A	R	L	D	O	M
S	E	A	B	E	E	S		C	A	N	A	S	T	A
			L	A	M	E		A	R	A	B			
S	E	C	E	D	E	D		P	E	L	I	S	S	E
O	C	A										B	A	N
U	M	B	R	A	G	E		C	A	S	C	A	D	E
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S	A	D	D	E	N	S		R	E	A	R	G	U	E
S	Y	R	I	N	G	E		E	S	P	O	U	S	E
B	R	E	A	D		N	A	B		O	L	M	E	C
		G	N	U		C	A	R		R	E	M		
		S	T	M		E	R	A		T	R	Y		

Family & Marriage

Adult Children At Home

Roger Rollins,
Family and Marriage Coalition

"Is the economic support that you're providing your child helping position them for a better future? Or is it enabling them to delay taking on adult responsibility?" – Christine Percheski, a sociologist at Northwestern University

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Bible (Joshua 1:9)

Joe and Jane were nearing retirement and looking forward to home projects they had been putting off for years. They also were planning some trips, both in the States and overseas. Then their son Jack showed up at the front door. Jack had lost his job and his apartment and needed a place to live. He said it was temporary, but the "temporary" stay soon appeared to be indeterminate. Jack had been a good son. He hadn't been particularly ambitious, but he did OK in school and helped around the house whenever he could.

Jack is a member of a growing population who grew up in a home where both their needs and many of their wants were taken care of. His parents weren't rich, but they had sufficient resources for them and their children. The parents had had some financial challenges early in their marriage, but they worked hard and had been rewarded for their diligence. Jack had a few summer jobs during his teen years, but these jobs just gave him a little spending money, which was soon gone.

Jack is not the only young adult who moved back to his parents' home. In fact, millions of American families have adult children living at home. It's increasingly common for young adults to continue living with mom and dad after high school or to return after getting out on their own for a time. Sociologists call them "boomerang kids."

An article published by Focus on the Family suggests that whether or not these "boomerang kids" were welcomed home at first, they have the potential to introduce tension into their parents' marriage. They also have the potential to minimize their contribution to the family and just "relax and enjoy the easy life." If this is the case, there are a number of things that can be done to help them become a contributing member of the household. This should be done both for the sake of the "boomerang kid" and the parents. Here are some suggestions for healthy boundaries when adults move in to live with their parents.

Establish clear expectations regarding privacy. Knock before entering someone else's room and respect the privacy of personal belongings. Maintenance of personal space and privacy in thoughts, communications, and activities is essential.

Maintain financial boundaries. If contributing to household expenses is expected, clearly define what is covered. This is especially important if the parents are contributing to their son's or daughter's financial support. Financial independence should be encouraged.

Set boundaries around decision-making. Young adults first need to recognize the importance of making their own decisions, and to accept the consequences of those decisions. While it's beneficial to seek the parents' advice, young adults should be encouraged to make decisions and to accept the resulting consequences.

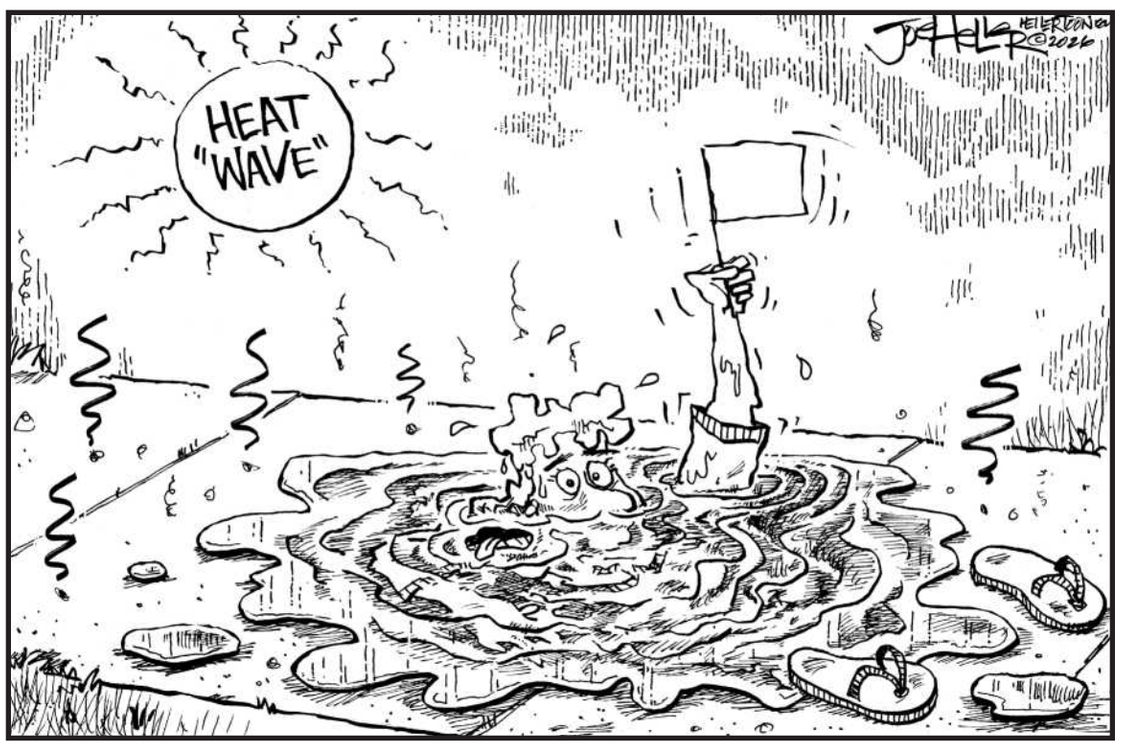
Establish boundaries around time and social life. Agree on expectations for family time, meals together, and participation in household activities. Young adults living in their parent's home need to agree on the rules of behavior in the home.

Maintain emotional boundaries. Young adults should develop and maintain their own healthy relationships outside the home. Parental emotional support is always worthwhile, but peer support and involvement with people outside the home is necessary. While it's natural to share joys and concerns with family, young adults should not rely solely on their parents for emotional support. Other relationships and resources should be cultivated for emotional and spiritual growth.

Set boundaries around household responsibilities. All members of the household should have responsibilities in maintaining the house and keeping it clean

Maintain spiritual boundaries. Spiritual disciplines and relationships both inside the home and outside the family context should be encouraged.

Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689. Let us know how we can help.



SUDOKU

		4					7	
	9	5				6		
	2		1		6	5		9
	3				7		2	
					5	1		
			9					4
		8	6			3		7
7		1			3	2		
							8	

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:

6	1	4	2	5	9	8	7	3
3	9	5	7	4	8	6	1	2
8	2	7	1	3	6	5	4	9
1	3	6	4	8	7	9	2	5
4	7	9	3	2	5	1	6	8
5	8	2	9	6	1	7	3	4
2	5	8	6	1	4	3	9	7
7	4	1	8	9	3	2	5	6
9	6	3	5	7	2	4	8	1