

WABOS

WORDS ABOUT BETTERING OUR SOCIETY

MAY 19, 2018

Another Day, Another School Massacre. Only in America

By Bill Finley

This time it was Santa Fe, Texas, with, according to the most recent reports available at this writing, at least 10 dead in a school shooting. Where will it be next? We don't know. But it will be somewhere, and it won't take long.

And that's because the Republican Party and the NRA believe it's perfectly fine to have laws that make it easy for people to slaughter innocent children. Their hands are soaked in the blood of children and they don't care. This is the definition of evil.

I have always towed the party line, standing for the national anthem, believing this is the greatest country on Earth, thanking God that I am an American.

Well, no more. This country of ours sucks.

The United States of Gun Violence and Mass Murder is sick and has been sucked down a black hole of violence and death that was once unimaginable but is now routine. And no one in power will do one damn thing to stop it. Nowhere else on the planet does this insanity exist.

Kids in Germany, China, Sweden, Cuba, Canada, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, any country you want to name, do not go to school every day fearing that they won't come home alive at the end of a day. It happens in one place, America, Donald Trump's America, the NRA's America. I cannot even begin to imagine that these people can be so deprived that they put their agenda ahead of human life. And make no mistake about it, this agenda is all about making sure that the people who manufacture weapons meant for only one thing—to kill human beings—keep raking in those profits.

No, I'm not the least bit proud to be an American. How could I? Our country is a sick, dangerous place run by very bad people. The poor and middle class have been trampled by the super wealthy and the driving force in this country is greed and profit. Our lack of universal health care is appalling. We let kids be killed in our schools and the story lasts on the front pages for no more than a day or two—or less if a Kardashian makes news.

I want to do something. I want to make a difference. I want to

make America great again—not Donald Trump's version of great, but all the things that this country once represented that truly did make it a shining beacon of life, hope and liberty and a model for the rest of the world to follow. They're all gone.

I keep sending my \$50 donations off to gun control groups and Democratic candidates that are running against these evil right-wing POS that support the NRA and I just feel like I'm wasting my money and a postage stamp. I will, of course, continue to vote the straight Democratic ticket. But I am so demoralized. I don't want to give up. I just don't know what to do. I feel like those of us who are sane and decent people have lost.



ABC News photo

A friend of mine, who is about the same age as I am, wrote on Twitter following the Santa Fe shootings that it's too late for our generation. We will never again see the country we loved and believed in and will only see this dark society we have become. Unfortunately, I believe he is right.

There is just one thing that gives me hope, and that is our youth. We have seen so many wonderful and brave kids emerge from the Parkland shootings and they have become a force to be reckoned with. They have performed a

miracle in that they have actually gotten people to listen. It's too early to see if there are students in Santa Fe, Texas that will pick up the torch from the Parkland kids. Let's hope there are, and let's hope they number in the thousands. And let's hope they are really pissed off.

Maybe it's too late for my Twitter friend and I. But I don't want it to be too late for my children. I want them to live in a country that is good and decent. I want them to send my grandchildren to school and never once have to worry that a nut with an assault rifle will enter the halls and start mowing people down. I want them to live in a country that will remember Trump's four years as abomination and a stain on the history of our nation. It can only happen if we vote anyone who supports the NRA out of office.

I want my children to live in this greatest country on Earth. In 2018, to think that they do is laughable.

Donald Trump's Policies Are Killing People

By Ethan C. Finley

Donald Trump is making it easier to poison, choke, and lie. In plain terms, that's what Trump's extremist "deregulatory" agenda- arguably the signature feature of his administration –means. It's enabling corporations to endanger consumers and workers, trash the planet and rip off consumers--legally.

It also means that, when corporations do violate the law, they can expect a slap on the wrist, or less. This is life and death. And right and wrong. Tainted infant formula that a young mother feeds her newborn.... A defective piece of industrial machinery that kills a worker... Predatory lenders stealing from the families least able to afford it... I, Ethan C. Finley the co-proprietor of W.A.B.O.S. am urging W.A.B.O.S. readers to write letters to their Congressmen, Congresswomen, or U.S. Senators opposing President Donald Trump's desire to create a new law known as the Regulatory Accountability Act.

If the Regulatory Accountability Act becomes law it would be easier for Big Oil & Gas to ruin our environment, for Wall Street banks to rip off consumers, for chemical companies to expose workers to poisons and for Big Pharma to jack prices on life-saving drugs. I, Ethan C. Finley hereby urges W.A.B.O.S. readers to make monetary donations to Public Citizen Inc. at 1600 20th Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009. Public Citizen Inc. has a very honorable goal. Their goal is use the federal courts to try to block President Donald Trump from getting away with carrying out his disastrous agenda.



Donald Trump: Literally Killing People

WABOS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY ETHAN C. FINLEY. BEGINNING IN 2018, WE ARE STRICTLY BY EMAIL, AND HAVE DISCONTINUED REGULAR MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS. TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR A LETTER TO THE EDITOR, PLEASE EMAIL THE SUBMISSION TO BILL FINLEY AT WNFINLEY@AOL.COM

Why I'm So Troubled by the Deaths in Gaza

By Ryan Finley

Recently, the events in Gaza have made me reconsider my level of support for Israel. I know that the Jewish people have suffered like none other in history, however that does not excuse their recent behavior and blatant killing of unarmed individuals. Fifty-eight people were killed and 1,300 were injured the other day during a protest in Gaza, and part of the reason as to why the Palestinians were protesting is that on that day the United States officially opened the new US Embassy to Israel in Jerusalem.

That is a major no-no for a lot of reasons that I hope you already understand as it needlessly inflamed tensions in the most volatile part of the world. The idiocy of this recent move by the Trump administration is laughable. Jared Kushner says he is working towards peace in the region, yet allows this to happen which everyone knew, including our Middle East and European allies, was only going to stoke violence. The people behind this policy decision are the far right Jewish-American population who have Trump's ear. These same people informed him on why we must leave the Iran Nuclear deal, which is also a horrible mistake, but I digress. Also the administration did not condemn the actions of Israel killing unarmed civilians, and only condemned the "violent protestors associated with Hamas," while the rest of the world called on both sides to show restraint.

I've had it with Israel. This is not to say I am anti-Israel; they're a strategically important ally in the Middle East. However, I have read that Israel has become more right wing and more militant. Some from Israel have described the current nation as totally different from the one they used to know that was accepting to all. In short, I think we need to re-evaluate our level of support for Israel and come to our senses and acknowledge that they also contribute to the violence and unstableness of the Middle East region.



Violence in Gaza

Waffle House Hero, Parkland Students Meet: United by Mass Killings, the Group Sat down for Breakfast

By Ethan Finley

It was a change of scenery for James Shaw Jr. who wrestled an AR-15 from a gunman in a Waffle House in Tennessee last month, which authorities said likely stopped the murder spree that left four people dead.

The shooting of 17 people in Parkland, Florida ignited unrelenting debate over the role of firearms in American life, renewed calls for gun-control measures and unleashed student activism led by Emma Gonzalez and others. The activism has caught on in ways rarely seen since the Vietnam War.

The Waffle House killing, by contrast, is a story of heroism and small miracles in a mass shooting—a tragedy rarely ended with bystander intervention. In a brief lull during the killings, Shaw rushed the gunman and tore away his rifle. The piping hot barrel burned his hands. The gunman then fled and was apprehended a day later by authorities.

Shaw's story is still resonating. A GoFundMe drive for the Waffle House victims is still active with donations being accepted through May 13th. But he seems focused to keep going with his story beyond the drive.

"Thank you great meeting you all, let's keep inspiring and bringing [people] together," Shaw wrote on Twitter to the students.



Waffle House hero James Shaw meets with Parkland High School shooting survivors

Let's hope and pray that the student activists from Marcy Stoneman Douglas High School keep the movement alive. Let's hope and pray that Emma Gonzalez and others make an all out effort to see that lawmakers who have always embraced the National Rifle Association lose their bid for re-election. Let's

hope and pray that James Shaw Jr. will lead an all out effort to make sure anti-gun control law makers lose their bid for re-election. One of the favorite lines of activist who are part of the National Rifle Association is as follows: "Guns Don't Kill People, People Kill People." Let's look at this way "Guns Don't Die, People Die"

Law enforcement authorities have a civic duty. Nikolas Cruz, the gunman who killed 17 people in Parkland, Florida on February 14th should go on trial before a petit jury in the next 4 to 8 weeks.

What Makes Your Top 10?

A friend of mine is working on a project for One People, an organization which is looking to bring accountability to politicians. They held a series of meetings with self-defined "angry voters" across the country, and taped the meetings, showing the divide between the left and right, and Baby Boomers and Gen Xers, among others. If you didn't see it on ABC's This Week, it's worth watching. [Click here.](#)

But as we watched the tape and listened to the people raving on about topics like illegal immigration, it occurred to me that the topic of illegal immigration wouldn't crack my top 100 among problems this country faces. So my friend and I went back and forth by text, each taking a turn to say what we felt were our top 10.

Here they are:

- HER: Guns**
- ME: Political intractability**
- HER: Citizens United: Wealthy People Funding Candidates**
- ME: Lack of education and retraining for jobs of the future**
- HER: Banking fraud and government bailouts**
- ME: The growing divide between rich and poor**
- HER: Elected officials' lack of connection to real people due to pensions and health care for life**
- ME: Climate change**
- HER: A system that does not guarantee health care for its people**
- ME: The cost of higher education**

The whole list took us about two minutes to complete, and if we had gone on all day, I don't think that building a wall between us and Mexico or keeping out immigrants fleeing from genocide in their country would have made the list. (I actually had the lack of civil discourse at number 11.)

But it made me wonder what others felt were the top 10 problems in America?

What are your top 10? Write me at suefinley@thetdn.com and we'll include it in the next edition.