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Inside Track

Big Science Lied, Americans Died

In a July 25 segment, Fox News host Tucker Carlson addressed recent reports about antidepressants, Covid “vaccines,” Alzheimer’s medications, and OxyContin, and mentioned Adderall and Ritalin as well.

Carlson opened talking about the opioid epidemic and how, as he put it, “Perdue Pharma kicked it off ... by aggressively marketing a narcotic called OxyContin,” which the drug giant said wasn’t addictive. Except that it was.



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Perdue ended up being sued and criminal charges were brought, but not one drug company executive, anywhere, went to prison. And this is the level of accountability — zero — that’s typical of matters involving pseudo-elite transgressions.

Carlson moved on to discussing recent University College London (UCL) research indicating that antidepressants don’t live up to their billing. As he put it, “Antidepressants are supposed to cure depression. That’s why they’re prescribed. And yet over the same period that [antidepressant] prescriptions have risen 3,000 percent, the suicide rate, that may be the most reliable indicator of all of depression, has not fallen in the United States. In fact, the suicide rate has jumped by 35 percent. That’s a huge increase. That’s a lot of dead people. Now, drug makers admit that their products may be part of the reason for the increase in suicide. The makers of Prozac, for example, can see that young people who take that drug have an increased risk of suicide compared to those who took a placebo.”

What’s more, according to the UCL study, the whole premise behind antidepressants — that they remedy a “chemical imbalance” in the brain — appears false. The researchers claim that the decades-old theory that increasing people’s serotonin levels will ameliorate their depression is incorrect.

None of this is to say that psychiatric drugs are never, ever, even under the rarest circumstances, beneficial (perhaps when a person poses an extreme danger to himself and/or others). But when 224 *million* prescriptions are written for antidepressants in one year alone, it’s clear these medications are egregiously overused.

By Selwyn Duke



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Poll: Two-thirds Want SCOTUS Term Limits

Sixty-seven percent of Americans support term limits for justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, according to a new poll published July 25 by the Associated Press (AP), in conjunction with the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Apparently, now that the Supreme Court is making decisions more in line with the U.S. Constitution, those on the left, including those who run the AP, are no longer happy with the Court.

When the Supreme Court was circumventing the will of the people in the states, as it did with *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, or with the 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling that decreed same-sex marriage was legal in all 50 states, progressives loved lifetime appointments — when their radical agenda was stalled in Congress, they could just get it implemented by the Supreme Court.



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The U.S. Constitution sets the terms for all members of the federal judiciary. Article III, Section 1, states, “The judges, both of supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behavior.” In other words, unless they get impeached and removed, or they resign, federal judges hold lifetime appointments. The Constitution limits the impeachment power of Congress when it relates to the president to treason, bribery, or high crimes and misdemeanors (serious misbehavior), but is silent for what constitutes a sufficient reason to impeach and remove a federal judge.

Eighty-two percent of Democrats and 57 percent of Republicans favor term limits for justices of the Supreme Court, according to the poll.

What is needed is a better-informed electorate, not term limits. Few have heard the arguments against term limits. This is one reason why governing by polls is not a good practice.

When it comes to the Supreme Court, whether the idea of term limits is a good or bad one, such limits could not be put in place by an act of Congress. Since the Constitution sets the terms of federal judges as lifetime appointments, it would require an amendment to the Constitution to implement term limits.

By *Steve Byas*



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Ninety-six Percent of U.S. Temperature Data Corrupted

Have you ever thought the temperature readings you hear in the media sound suspiciously high? On July 27, the Heartland Institute gave evidence for such suspicions when it released a new study entitled “Corrupted Climate Stations: The Official U.S. Surface Temperature Record Remains Fatally Flawed.”

The study was authored by Anthony Watts, a senior fellow for environment and climate at the Heartland Institute and creator of the climate-realism website Watts Up With That; and Dr. H. Sterling Burnett, director of the Arthur B. Robinson Center on Climate and Environmental Policy.



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The study found that “approximately 96 percent of U.S. temperature stations used to measure climate change fail to meet what the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) considers to be ‘acceptable’ and uncorrupted placement by its own published standards.”

NOAA’s own standards call for temperature measuring to be done “Over level terrain (earth or sod) typical of the area around the station, and, at least 100 feet from any extensive concrete or paved surface.”

NOAA claimed that it had cleaned up its United States Climate Reference Network (USCRN) data-collecting sites, but in 2014 switched to another data set called “nClimDiv.” The “nClimDiv” data included all of the USCRN data, along with thousands of other data-collection locations, many of which were beset with the same heat-adding biases.

Watts and his team concluded that after a “comprehensive and representative sample of stations, 96 percent were found to be biased in some way by the heat sink effect, or other heat sources.”

“If you look at the unperturbed stations that adhere to NOAA’s published standard — ones that are correctly located and free of localized urban heat biases — they display about half the rate of warming compared to perturbed stations that have such biases,” Watts said. “Yet, NOAA continues to use the data from their warm-biased century-old surface temperature networks to produce monthly and yearly reports to the U.S. public on the state of the climate.”

By James Murphy



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Amazon Buys Clinic Chain for \$3.9 Billion

Online retail giant Amazon announced July 21 that it had purchased One Medical, a national chain of primary-care clinics, in a \$3.9 billion deal.

As *The New York Times* reported July 21, One Medical's share price had dropped over 80 percent since last year. Amazon said in a statement it would buy the company at \$18 a share.



AP Images

"The opportunity to transform health care and improve outcomes by combining One Medical's human-centered and technology-powered model and exceptional team with Amazon's customer obsession, history of invention, and willingness to invest in the long-term is so exciting," said One Medical CEO Amir Dan Rubin in the statement.

This marks Amazon's latest foray into the healthcare market. In 2018, the company bought online pharmacy PillPack.

The San Francisco-based One Medical currently runs 188 medical offices, mostly in big cities, as well as offering patients virtual medical care for a \$199 yearly membership fee. One Medical itself last year spent \$2.1 billion to buy Iowa Health, a company specializing in care for senior citizens who have Medicare.

Analysts at the investment bank Cowen speculate that part of the appeal for Amazon of the One Medical acquisition is that the clinic chain presently gets five times as many virtual as in-person visits. And, like Amazon, One Medical places a high value on data, having built its own records system that offers Amazon 15 years' worth of health data to dig into.

There is the possibility Amazon could run into a hurdle with the One Medical acquisition: The purchase is above a threshold that mandates mandatory reporting to both the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission. And the FTC is already conducting a probe into whether Amazon broke antitrust laws with its purchase of film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

A number of organizations, including the Open Markets Institute and the American Economic Liberties Project, have come out in opposition to Amazon's expansions.

By Luis Miguel



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