

January 5, 2015

Charles Krauthammer writes on the Narcissist's Cuba feint.

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*True. But that was never a prospect. The entire purpose was geopolitical and the payoff was monumental: We walked away with the most significant anti-Soviet strategic realignment of the entire Cold War, formally breaking up the communist bloc and gaining China's neutrality, and occasional support, in our half-century struggle to dismantle the Soviet empire.*

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Jennifer Rubin posts on the best of 2014.

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*Best primary preparation: Hands down, this goes to Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), who studied, traveled, appeared countless times on TV, wrote op-eds on foreign policy and projected a serious demeanor. He handled his politicized indictment with aplomb and appropriate indignation. He showed uncommon humility. We won't know whether he can sustain his momentum and overcome past impressions, but he and his staff set a standard for conscientious and self-reflective preparation.*

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**Power Line** says the "Quote of the Year" came from **President It's All About Me**.

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**Heather Mac Donald** explains De Blasio's fateful anti-cop slander.

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*In other words, de Blasio thinks that his son is at risk of injury or death from an NYPD officer every time he steps outside at night. And he sees the officers who tried to arrest a resisting Garner as the culmination of centuries of racism, even though the shopkeepers in the area who had been urging the police to clear up lawlessness were mostly minorities themselves.*

*It is impossible to overstate how inflammatory and ignorant de Blasio's statements are. De Blasio's pronouncements were merely a wordier version of the protest chants against "killer cops" and belonged to the national frenzy of cop-bashing that provoked the assassination of Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu. ...*

*... The real injustice occurred decades ago, when police officers across the country ignored crime in black neighborhoods. Today, the NYPD devotes the majority of its resources and energy to saving lives in poor communities. Any "danger" that Dante de Blasio might face comes overwhelmingly from black criminals, not the police, de Blasio should acknowledge.*

*In 2013, criminals committed 1,103 shootings, wounding or killing 1,299 victims. NYPD officers, by contrast, fired their guns 40 times, despite having been dispatched 80,000 times to investigate weapons reports and having encountered guns and other weapons in more than 30,000 arrests.*

*That firearms discharge number is the lowest since the department began collecting data. The police injured 17 people and killed eight — again, a record low. Almost all those victims had extensive and serious criminal records; most had threatened the officer with deadly force.*

*Whites were far more likely to be shot by the police than blacks when their crime rates are taken into account. ...*

Turning to another story that hangs around, [Bacon's Rebellion](#) says it is time for UVA administrators to do some explaining.

*... University of Virginia administrators were well aware of the gang-rape allegations long before they surfaced in the Rolling Stone article, going so far as to cite the incident in testimony to Congress. They accepted the veracity of the account and did not begin to check it until Rolling Stone's Erdely started asking pointed questions.*

*Despite discrepancies between Renda's version of the gang rape story and the Rolling Stone version of the story — which grew more detailed and horrific — UVA administrators never expressed skepticism of the narrative. Sullivan did once refer to the "alleged" gang rape when referring the case to the Charlottesville Police but proceeded as if the story was accurate.*

*The university leadership used the horror of the gang rape story to mobilize university opinion behind the need to change the "culture" and practices regarding sexual assault. When the Washington Post debunked the story, Sullivan essentially said that it didn't matter.*

*Rolling Stone has been rightly excoriated for its catastrophic failure in reporting. Out of an excessive sensitivity toward the feelings of "Jackie," Erdely did not seek to confirm her account either with friends or the alleged perpetrators. In so doing, the magazine perpetrated a hoax. However, little attention has been paid to the University of Virginia administration for perpetrating and acting upon the same hoax to advance its ideological agenda.*

*Yes, Teresa Sullivan's agenda is highly ideological, almost identical to the White House's sexual assault agenda, which frames the problem in black-and-white terms as an epidemic of rape and a student culture of denial — as opposed to, say, a problem stemming from the drunken party hook-up culture that results in a spectrum of undesirable behaviors from sexual assault to regret sex. ...*

There is some good news; we have the year's first collection of late night humor from [Andrew Malcolm](#).

*Meyers: President Vladimir Putin has been named Russia's "Man of the Year." Second place went to "or else."*

*Conan: Putin was named Russia's "Man of the Year" for the 15th consecutive year. Putin got 143 million votes and his opponent got killed in a mysterious boating accident.*

*Meyers: Vladimir Putin says it's "too early" to decide on re-election in 2018. But he says it's not too early to decide how much he wins by.*

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**Washington Post**

**[Nylons for nothing in Cuba](#)**

by Charles Krauthammer

There's an old Cold War joke — pre-pantyhose — that to defeat communism we should empty our B-52 bombers of nuclear weapons and instead drop nylons over the Soviet Union. Flood the Russians with the soft consumer culture of capitalism, seduce them with Western contact and commerce, love-bomb them into freedom.

We did win the Cold War, but differently. We contained, constrained, squeezed and eventually exhausted the Soviets into giving up. The dissidents inside [subsequently told us](#) how much they were sustained by our support for them and our implacable pressure on their oppressors.

The logic behind President Obama's Cuba normalization, assuming there is one, is the nylon strategy. [We tried 50 years of containment](#) and that didn't bring democracy. So let's try inundating them with American goods, visitors, culture, contact, commerce.

It's not a crazy argument. But it does have its weaknesses. Normalization has not advanced democracy in China or Vietnam. Indeed, it hasn't done so in Cuba. Except for the United States, [Cuba has had normal relations](#) with the rest of the world for decades. Tourists, trade, investment from Canada, France, Britain, Spain, everywhere. An avalanche of nylons — and not an inch of movement in Cuba toward freedom.

In fact, one could argue that this influx of Western money has helped preserve the dictatorship, as just about all the financial transactions go through the government, which takes for itself before any trickle-down crumbs are allowed to reach the regime-indentured masses.

My view is that police-state control of every aspect of Cuban life is so thoroughly perfected that outside influences, whether confrontational or cooperative, only minimally affect the country's domestic trajectory.

So why not just lift the embargo? After all, the unassailable strategic rationale for isolating Cuba — in the Soviets' mortal global struggle with us, Cuba enlisted as a highly committed enemy beachhead 90 miles from American shores — evaporated with the collapse of the Soviet empire. A small island with no significant independent military capacities, Cuba became geopolitically irrelevant.

That's been partially reversed in the past few years as Vladimir Putin has repositioned Russia as America's leading geopolitical adversary and the Castros signed up for that coalition too. [Cuba has reportedly agreed to reopen](#) the Soviet-era Lourdes espionage facility, a massive listening post for intercepting communications. Havana and Moscow have also discussed the use of Cuban airfields for Russia's nuclear-capable long-range bombers.

This in addition to Cuba's usual hemispheric mischief, such as [training and equipping](#) the security and repression apparatus in Venezuela.

No mortal threat, I grant you. And not enough to justify forever cutting off Cuba. But it does raise the question: With the U.S. embargo already in place and the Castros hungry to have it lifted, why give them trade, investment, hard currency, prestige and worldwide legitimacy — for nothing in return?

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If Obama insisted on giving away the store, why not at least do it item by item? We relax part of the embargo in return for, say, Internet access. And tie further normalization to serial relaxations of police-state repression.

Oh, what hypocrisy, say the Obama acolytes. Did we not normalize relations with China and get no human rights quid pro quo?

True. But that was never a prospect. The entire purpose was geopolitical and the [payoff was monumental](#): We walked away with the most significant anti-Soviet strategic realignment of the entire Cold War, formally breaking up the communist bloc and gaining China's neutrality, and occasional support, in our half-century struggle to dismantle the Soviet empire.

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Indeed it is. You know how to achieve a breakthrough in tough negotiations? Give everything away. Try it. You'll have a deal by noon. Every time.

## Right Turn

### [Best of the best](#)

by Jennifer Rubin

There is no shortage of cynical pols, biased journalists or incompetent government officials, so when we see genuine excellence and devotion to public service, we should give credit where credit is due:

*Best primary preparation:* Hands down, this goes to Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R), who studied, traveled, appeared countless times on TV, wrote op-eds on foreign policy and projected a serious demeanor. He handled his politicized indictment with aplomb and appropriate indignation. He showed uncommon humility. We won't know whether he can sustain his momentum and overcome past impressions, but he and his staff set a standard for conscientious and self-reflective preparation.

*Best interview:* No interview this year compared to [Diane Sawyer's interrogation of Hillary Clinton](#). It was focused, substantive and aggressive — the first of many to reveal Clinton's considerable shortcomings.

*Best national security experts:* Here two former officials deserve praise, ex-CIA director [Michael Hayden](#) and former attorney general Michael Mukasey. They persuasively debunked misunderstandings and out-and-out falsehoods about the NSA data collection program and the [CIA's use of enhanced interrogation techniques](#). When the White House won't defend its intelligence agencies, Hayden and Mukasey's willingness to educate the public and defend necessary tools in the war against jihadist terrorists is both critical and admirable. (Why, by the way, doesn't former CIA director Gen. David Petraeus to do the same?)

*Best truth tellers:* Former defense secretaries Leon Panetta and Robert Gates each wrote books critical of the Obama administration. Vilified by the president's flacks, they nevertheless laid bare the many national security deficiencies in the Obama White House, thereby enhancing the public's understanding and Congress's opportunity for appropriate oversight before it is too late to do anything about it.

*Best losing candidate:* No one compared to Virginia Republican Senate nominee Ed Gillespie, who ran an upbeat, serious and specific campaign focused on the needs of working and middle-class Americans. He ran on an Obamacare alternative, a specific energy plan, tax and regulatory reform, concrete education reforms and fiscal discipline. With his devotion to substance and sunny demeanor, he came within a whisker of beating the heavily favored incumbent, Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.). Gillespie should write a book ("Republican Campaigns for Dummies"?). Whether he runs for governor or helps others to win election in 2016, he provided a much-needed example for fellow Republicans.

*Best winning candidate:* Rep. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) became the happy warrior of 2014, soundly defeating Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) and nearly singlehandedly destroying the nonsensical "war on women" attack on Republicans. If he is as good a senator as he was a candidate, then the party, the Senate and the country will benefit.

*Best oversight grilling:* Congressmen and U.S. senators are notoriously bad at questioning officials and sustaining a coherent line of argument. But in dismantling Secretary of State John Kerry's testimony and the entire Obama foreign policy, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) was unparalleled. [Watch for yourself](#).

*Best Democrat on foreign policy:* Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) kept up the heat on the White House on Iran, decried Russia's invasion of Ukraine and denounced the president's decision to normalize relations with Cuba. As co-author of the most bipartisan and extensive Iran sanctions bill, he will be front and center in 2015 and will get the chance to see colleagues vote on his measure. It is not easy to criticize a president in your own party, but Menendez stayed true to his convictions, a rarity inside the Beltway.

*Best lawyering:* Kudos go to the winning legal teams in [Hobby Lobby](#) and the [recess appointment](#) cases at the Supreme Court. The legal strategists who will have their oral arguments at the Supreme Court in March on the Obamacare challenge to subsidies for the federal exchanges are likewise to be commended. If lawmakers are getting worse over time, the conservative Supreme Court litigators are getting better and better.

## Power Line

### Quote of the year

by Scott Johnson

Among the year-end lists compiled this year I have yet to see one that captures the quote of the year. Confining consideration to active politicians, I think that President Obama walks away with the honors this year.

Against all the odds in the run-up to the midterm elections in November, Obama said something useful and, even more improbably, something true (video below). In his speech at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management on October 2 — a speech larded with misleading factoids and excuses and falsehoods touting his record on the economy (including Obamacare) at Castroite length (White House text [here](#)) — Obama said: “Now, I am not on the ballot this fall. Michelle is pretty happy about that. But make no mistake: These policies are on the ballot — every single one of them.”

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Obama's statement undermined the campaigns of Democratic Senate candidates including Mark Pryor, Kay Hagan, and Alison Lundergan Grimes, each of whom ardently advocated the proposition that the midterm elections were not about Obama or his policies. Obama stepped forward to step on their theme and proclaim: It's all about me!

## City Journal

### De Blasio's fateful anti-cop slander

*Until he takes it back, the city risks sliding back into disorder*

by Heather Mac Donald

Mayor de Blasio met with union leaders Tuesday in an effort to mend his rift with police officers. We're told the meeting was respectful.

The gesture will be meaningless unless the mayor publicly repudiates his dangerous calumny of the police.

Following the nonindictment of Officer Daniel Pantaleo for the lethal arrest of Eric Garner last July, de Blasio said that Garner's death and the grand jury's failure to indict sprung from “not years of racism . . . , or decades of racism, but centuries of racism.” The mayor worries “every night,” he said, about the “dangers” his biracial son, Dante, may face from “officers who are paid to protect him.”

In other words, de Blasio thinks that his son is at risk of injury or death from an NYPD officer every time he steps outside at night. And he sees the officers who tried to arrest a resisting Garner as the culmination of centuries of racism, even though the shopkeepers in the area who had been urging the police to clear up lawlessness were mostly minorities themselves.

It is impossible to overstate how inflammatory and ignorant de Blasio's statements are. De Blasio's pronouncements were merely a wordier version of the protest chants against “killer cops” and

belonged to the national frenzy of cop-bashing that provoked the assassination of Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu.

Since those cop murders, de Blasio has been furiously back-pedaling. He called the NYPD the “greatest and finest police department on this Earth” at the Police Academy graduation on Monday, and said that “it takes a special kind of person to put their lives on the line for others.”

But as long as de Blasio’s earlier claims hang out there unretracted, the overcompensation is simply insulting. Both propositions cannot be true: Dante cannot be in daily “danger” from the NYPD because of his skin color, while at the same time the NYPD is the finest police department on Earth.

For nearly a year, the NYPD’s top brass have been worried about losing the rank and file. Morale was already at risk from the superfluous new oversight bureaucracies that de Blasio demanded as a mayoral candidate. Worse, the Civilian Complaint Review Board has assumed new prosecutorial and sentencing powers, which it lacks the knowledge to use appropriately.

In early November, a high-ranking official spoke to me about the NYPD’s fears: “The main thing we can’t allow to happen is to lose control of the streetcorners.”

That may already be occurring. The department managed to quell a 10% shooting spike in the first half of the year by throwing cops at hot spots over the summer. But in the past four weeks, shooting victims have surged 38% over the same period last year, while in the days since the assassination, cops have all but abandoned discretionary summons and arrest activity, as threats against them pour into the department.

If de Blasio wants to reverse this ominous slowdown, he must explicitly rebut his earlier slander of the NYPD. And he must stop glorifying the anti-NYPD protesters as crusaders against social and racial injustice.

The real injustice occurred decades ago, when police officers across the country ignored crime in black neighborhoods. Today, the NYPD devotes the majority of its resources and energy to saving lives in poor communities. Any “danger” that Dante de Blasio might face comes overwhelmingly from black criminals, not the police, de Blasio should acknowledge.

In 2013, criminals committed 1,103 shootings, wounding or killing 1,299 victims. NYPD officers, by contrast, fired their guns 40 times, despite having been dispatched 80,000 times to investigate weapons reports and having encountered guns and other weapons in more than 30,000 arrests.

That firearms discharge number is the lowest since the department began collecting data. The police injured 17 people and killed eight — again, a record low. Almost all those victims had extensive and serious criminal records; most had threatened the officer with deadly force.

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Whites were 5% of all suspects shot by the police in 2013 though they committed only 2% of the city’s shootings — a 250% disparity. Blacks were 75% of criminal shooters and 79% of police shooting victims — virtual parity.

De Blasio may be too narcissistic to take responsibility for his reckless errors. That leaves only Police Commissioner Bill Bratton to correct the record.

Yet Bratton has been curiously listless when it comes to defending his force. If he has presented data rebutting the lie that the NYPD poses a mortal risk to young black men, the press has not reported it.

Perhaps Bratton is preserving his political capital for a different fight.

But unless the mayor himself can convince cops that he will spread the truth about policing, the city's always fragile conquest of crime will be in severe jeopardy.

*Mac Donald is the Thomas W. Smith fellow at the Manhattan Institute and the author of "Are Cops Racist?"*

## **Bacon's Rebellion**

### **In Wake of Rolling Stone Fiasco, UVa Officials Also Have Some Explaining to Do**

by James A. Bacon and Reed Fawell III

On June 20, 2014, five months before the publication of a devastating article alleging a gang rape at the University of Virginia, Emily Renda, an employee of the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, [testified](#) on sexual assault issues before the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. The young woman, a self-identified victim of a campus rape, recounted her extensive activism against sexual violence, including work with a young woman identified by the pseudonym Jenna.

Jenna was gang-raped by five fraternity men early in her freshman year. Despite the severity of the assault and injuries she sustained, Jenna still experienced a feeling of personal responsibility. Looking for affirmation, she sought out peers and told her story. Sadly, each and every one of the friends she reached out to responded with varying denials of her experience; these responses worsened her feelings of self-blame. ....

When she finally sought assistance from the Dean of Students' office, after struggling and nearly failing out of her classes for two semesters, it was difficult for the university to conduct a meaningful investigation because much of the evidence had been lost and witnesses were more difficult to locate."

The story differed in some respects from the gang rape story that led off the explosive *Rolling Stone* article, "[A Rape on Campus](#)," which used the pseudonym of "Jackie." In Renda's understanding, Jenna/Jackie had been raped by five men, not seven as reported by *Rolling Stone*. In Renda's version, Jenna/Jackie sought out her peers to tell her story; in *Rolling Stone*, she contacted them immediately after the rape. But in both tellings, Jenna/Jackie's friends responded by discouraging her from reporting the incident. Both versions of the traumatic episode reinforced a national anti-rape narrative that a student "culture" of denial perpetuated an epidemic of sexual assaults on college campuses.



*Emily Renda attending a White House function on sexual assault earlier this year. Image captured from Renda's Instagram account and posted by the 28 Sherman blog.*

Soon after Renda testified to Congress, *Rolling Stone* Contributing Editor Sabrina Rubin Erdely started researching a lengthy expose of sexual assault on college campuses. At some point, she connected with Renda, who granted an interview in which she described her own ordeal and commented upon the student culture of indifference toward sexual assault victims. Renda also connected Erdely to other sources, including “Jackie.”

Renda has not publicly commented upon her objectives in collaborating with Erdely on the article, but there is every reason to think that she hoped for a positive treatment of the University of Virginia's ongoing efforts to grapple with sexual assaults. In February, the university had sponsored a national event, “Dialogue at U.Va.: Sexual Misconduct Among College Students,” that brought together national experts and professionals from some 60 colleges and universities to discuss prevention and response. Over the following three months, she traveled to the White House [five times](#) to participate in an administration task force to “protect students from sexual assault.” During the time Erdely researched her article, UVa was already implementing some of the recommendations contained in the White House report, “[Not Alone](#).” Indeed, the Hoo’s Got Your Back initiative, designed to encourage bystanders to intervene and stop sexual assaults, provided the backdrop of one of the vignettes in Erdely’s article.

But Erdely had a very different agenda. Rather than highlight UVa’s anti-rape activism, she launched the November 19, 2014, article with a horrifying tale of a gang rape of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, painted UVa as a place where rape had been prevalent for decades, and portrayed the university administration as more concerned with protecting its reputation than in achieving justice for the victims of sexual assaults.

It’s not clear when UVa officials got wind of Erdely’s intentions, but by September, Erdely was asking pointed questions about its sexual-assault policies. According to emails acquired by the *Washington Post* under the Freedom of Information Act, the university shifted into damage control mode. University officials canceled an interview Erdely had set up with Nicole Eramo, head of UVa’s Sexual Misconduct Board and mother confessor to many victims of sexual assault. They

also blocked access to Claire Kaplan with the Women's Center. Instead, communications officers insisted that Erdely interview university President Teresa Sullivan.

It wasn't until the magazine asked probing questions that UVa officials began digging deeper into the gang rape allegation that had circulated widely within the university and Renda mentioned in her congressional testimony. Wrote Erdely:

Within days of the [September 12, 2014, Board of Trustees] meeting, having learned of *Rolling Stone's* probe into Jackie's story, UVA at last placed Phi Kappa Psi under investigation. Or rather, as President Sullivan carefully answered my question about allegations of gang rape at Phi Psi, "We do have a fraternity under investigation." Phi Kappa Psi national executive director Shawn Collinsworth says that UVA indeed notified him of sexual assault allegations; he immediately dispatched a representative to meet with the chapter. UVA chapter president Stephen Scipione recalls being only told of a vague, anonymous "fourth-hand" allegation of a sexual assault during a party. "We were not told that it was rape, but rather that something of a sexual nature took place," he wrote to RS in an e-mail. Either way, Collinsworth says, given the paucity of information, "we have no evidence to substantiate the alleged assaults."

"*Under investigation*," President Sullivan insists when I ask her to elaborate on how the university is handling the case. "I don't know how else to spell that out for you."

When finally published in November, the article included "many details" about the gang rape that "were previously not disclosed to University officials," Sullivan said in her [first public response](#). University Rector George Martin reiterated the point in a [statement released the next day](#).

Despite the horrific nature of the charges and the differences with the earlier version to which Renda testified before Congress, neither Sullivan nor Martin questioned the veracity of the *Rolling Stone* account. Announcing that she'd asked the Charlottesville Police Department to investigate the incident, Sullivan declined to comment upon the gang rape "out of respect for" the privacy of the sexual assault survivors. Otherwise, she emphasized ongoing initiatives to combat sexual assaults, including the February conference on sexual misconduct, the Hoo's Got Your Back initiative, a Not on Our Grounds campaign, a new student sexual misconduct policy, and an upcoming campus climate survey.

The gang-rape allegations may have been a disaster for UVa's reputation, but it did galvanize the university community into supporting the sexual-assault initiatives that had been underway for months. "The wrongs described in *Rolling Stone* are appalling and have caused all of us to reexamine our responsibility to this community," Sullivan stated in a Nov. 22, 2014, message to the university community.

We as a community must ... do a systematic evaluation of our culture to ensure that one of our founding principles— the pursuit of truth – remains a pillar on which we can stand. ....

I write you today in solidarity. I write you in great sorrow, great rage, but most importantly, with great determination. Meaningful change is necessary, and we can lead that change for all universities. We can demand that incidents like those described in *Rolling Stone* never happen and that if they do, the responsible are held accountable to the law. This will require institutional change, cultural change, and legislative change, and it will not be easy. We are making those changes.

Essentially embracing the philosophy of never letting a crisis go to waste, Sullivan pushed through the sexual-assault agenda that had been in the works since early in the year. She [shut down the](#)

[social activities of sororities and fraternities](#) until Jan. 9, 2015, vowing to provide better oversight of alcohol consumption and safety of guests. The Board of Trustees [adopted a policy](#) of “zero tolerance” toward sexual violence. The university hired the law firm O’Melveny & Meyers to conduct a review of sexual assault at UVa and the university’s response to reported cases. Sullivan [created an ad hoc group](#) of students, faculty, administrators and stakeholders to “ensure the safety and well-being of students.” The group would focus on three main areas:

- Culture, including student behavior, Greek life, alcohol and other drug use, and student self-governance;
- Prevention, including bystander training, peer education and physical safety such as lighting, camera systems and policing; and
- Response, including institutional survivor support, training for students and faculty, and U.Va. policies and issues regarding adjudication.

This was very similar to the agenda articulated by the White House task force that Emily Renda had participated in. Even when the *Washington Post* essentially debunked the gang rape story, Sullivan did not relent in her commitment to the program. “Over the past two weeks our community has been more focused than ever on one of the most difficult and critical issues facing higher education today: sexual violence on college campuses. Today’s news must not alter this focus,” [she stated](#) Dec. 5, 2014.

Sullivan drove home [the same message](#) in the 14th annual Lighting of the Lawn celebration on that same night. University officials and student leaders elaborated on the theme. The secret Seven Society donated \$58,000 to support programs like bystander intervention. [A statement from the Society](#) emphasized the need to change the student culture. “Very few of us have knowingly allowed a sexual assault to be committed. How many of us, though, have stood by while a peer was disrespected? While another was objectified? How many times have we shaken our heads at the bigotry that persists in our community – and then done nothing?”

On Dec. 8, 2014, Sullivan reiterated her determination to forge ahead: “I remain committed to a fearless examination of our culture and practices,” she said, in laying out an action plan. Summarized a UVa press release: “Sullivan said the well-being of students, especially survivors of sexual assault, remains the first and foremost concern — regardless of the ongoing scrutiny of the magazine’s account.”

**What does it mean?** In the foregoing account, we have stuck to the facts. While the evidence may lend itself to different interpretations, we draw the following conclusions from those facts:

1. University of Virginia administrators were well aware of the gang-rape allegations long before they surfaced in the *Rolling Stone* article, going so far as to cite the incident in testimony to Congress. They accepted the veracity of the account and did not begin to check it until *Rolling Stone*’s Erdely started asking pointed questions.
2. Despite discrepancies between Renda’s version of the gang rape story and the *Rolling Stone* version of the story — which grew more detailed and horrific — UVa administrators never expressed skepticism of the narrative. Sullivan did once refer to the “alleged” gang rape when referring the case to the Charlottesville Police but proceeded as if the story was accurate.
3. The university leadership used the horror of the gang rape story to mobilize university opinion behind the need to change the “culture” and practices regarding sexual assault. When the *Washington Post* debunked the story, Sullivan essentially said that it didn’t matter.
4. *Rolling Stone* has been rightly excoriated for its catastrophic failure in reporting. Out of an excessive sensitivity toward the feelings of “Jackie,” Erdely did not seek to confirm her

account either with friends or the alleged perpetrators. In so doing, the magazine perpetrated a hoax. However, little attention has been paid to the University of Virginia administration for perpetrating and acting upon the same hoax to advance its ideological agenda.

5. Yes, Teresa Sullivan's agenda is highly ideological, almost identical to the White House's sexual assault agenda, which frames the problem in black-and-white terms as an epidemic of rape and a student culture of denial — as opposed to, say, a problem stemming from the drunken party hook-up culture that results in a spectrum of undesirable behaviors from sexual assault to regret sex.

Mass media and bloggers are finally picking at the edges of the Sullivan administration's cynical exploitation of the gang-rape story to advance its agenda. Such attention is way overdue. While we believe we have helped to advance this line of questioning with this blog post, there is still much work to do.

## IBD

### Late Night Humor

by Andrew Malcolm

Conan: Some people are criticizing the new movie "Exodus" for the scene where Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt driving a Prius.

Meyers: Kris and Bruce Jenner's divorce was official the other day. They only ask that the media allow them to handle this family matter publicly.

Conan: The Dalai Lama says there should be no more Dalai Lama's after his death. This is particularly bad news for his son, Steve Lama.

Fallon: Russia is so broke, Russian men can only afford to put on *ONE* bottle of cologne every day. Russia's economy is so bad, Edward Snowden had to put government secrets on Craigslist.

Meyers: Vladimir Putin says it's "too early" to decide on re-election in 2018. But he says it's not too early to decide how much he wins by.

Conan: ISIS is reportedly recruiting professionals like doctors, engineers and accountants. But sorry, kids—even ISIS is not hiring liberal arts majors.

Meyers: The NASA Mars rover Curiosity has found methane gas on Mars. Which may finally prove that Mars was once home to a Chipotle.

Conan: Obama says he was once mistaken for a parking valet. But then Michelle added, "On the bright side, that is how we got our first car."

Conan: Tonight is the first night of Hanukkah, a spiritual journey into light and darkness that lasts eight days, just like the movie "Interstellar."

Meyers: Yup, the first night of Hanukkah. Hanukkah lasts eight nights unlike Christmas, which lasts two and a half months.

Fallon: A FedEx truck flipped over in New Jersey, spilling packages all over the Interstate. The good news is everyone's OK. Even better news is now you can tell your loved ones, "Oh man, that's probably the truck *YOUR* Christmas present was on."

Conan: The Web's inventor says Internet access is a "human right." He also said it's a right he exercises every night after his wife goes to bed.

Meyers: The outgoing 113th Congress had an approval rating of just 16%. *16 percent!* To give you some perspective, Cosby is at 17.

Conan: Sony hackers leaked the script for the new James Bond movie. Sony executives said the news left them shaken but not stirred.

Fallon: New research has found that 84% of vegetarians and vegans ultimately return to eating meat. Yeah, it turns out the way animals are treated is *NOTHING* compared to how people treat vegetarians.

Meyers: President Vladimir Putin has been named Russia's "Man of the Year." Second place went to "or else."

Conan: Putin was named Russia's "Man of the Year" for the 15th consecutive year. Putin got 143 million votes and his opponent got killed in a mysterious boating accident.

Conan: Today in Washington several government buildings were left without power. Of course, the White House will be without power for two more years.

Conan: Sy Berger, the designer of the modern baseball card, has died. He will be laid to rest in a shoebox somewhere in an attic.

Conan: On Facebook you can now search any post that's ever been on your page. It's very helpful if you want to waste time this year remembering exactly how you wasted time last year.

Meyers: New vending machines are using facial recognition software to decide if they will sell different foods to certain customers. Again, vending machines are now racist.

Conan: Obama says he wants to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba. He's acting quickly before Seth Rogen and Sony make a movie about the Castros.

Conan: The Chinese government has banned the use of puns and word-play in all TV broadcasts. The ban was enacted by China's Censorship Minister, Me No Fun.

Meyers: During those recent storms, a tornado touched down in Los Angeles. And still, nobody's boobs moved.

Conan: Lufthansa Airlines will soon allow pet falcons aboard their flights. Bad news for Lufthansa passengers with "seeing eye mice."

Conan: Honey Boo Boo's parents were offered \$1 million to make a sex tape. Fortunately, they decided to take an offer of \$3 million to not make a sex tape.

Fallon: A brother and sister in Minneapolis are opening the world's first vegan butcher shop. Yeah, at the vegan butcher shop, they promise to kill all the flavor *BUT* in a humane way.

Conan: The dog whisperer, Cesar Millan, tweeted that he is alive despite reports that he had died. Or *MAYBE* right before he died, he trained his dog to tweet?

Conan: Today in Oklahoma, two men dressed as Batman and Captain America tried to rob someone at a gas station. They were charged with attempted robbery and “mixing Marvel with DC.”

Conan: Iran may have launched airstrikes against ISIS. Do you know how long it’s been since I’ve been able to wear my “Go Iran” t-shirt?

Meyers: A new student-loan calculator app determines how long students will be in debt based on their major. For example, if you’re a creative arts major, you can’t afford the app.

Conan: The top Google searches of 2014 were Ebola and "Frozen." One leaves you with something highly infectious that’s impossible to get out of your system. The other is Ebola.

Conan: Scientists are nearing development of a pill to replace exercising. Americans heard this and said, “It better come in Cool Ranch flavor.”

Meyers: Delta Airlines is adding a new ticket class below current Economy. Apparently, in that class you can’t board until the plane is actually taking off.

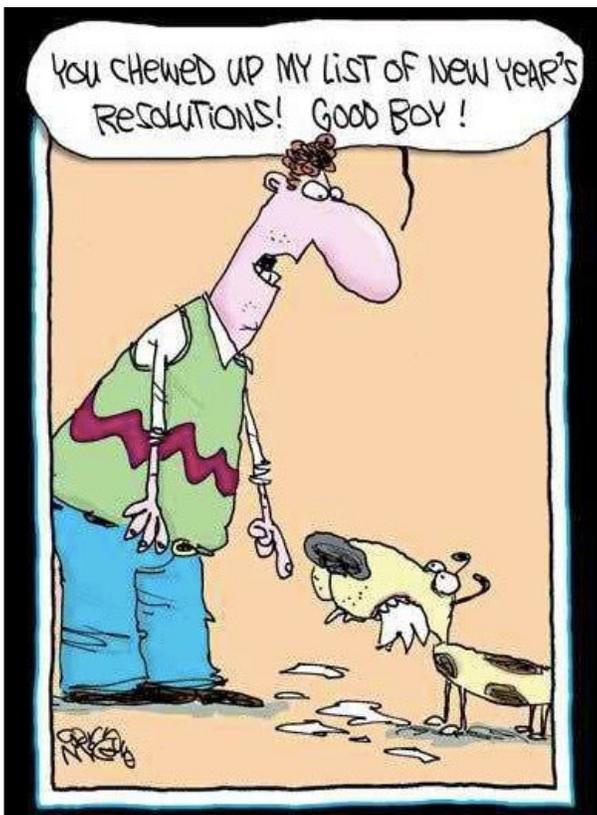
Conan: Over the weekend, a couple got married on the New York City subway. The couple has asked that instead of gifts, you send Purell.



2015 is the Year of the Sunflower, according to the [Home Garden Association](#). Why 2015? Why not? Sunflowers are a huge crop worldwide, with 60 percent of them grown in Europe and Russia.



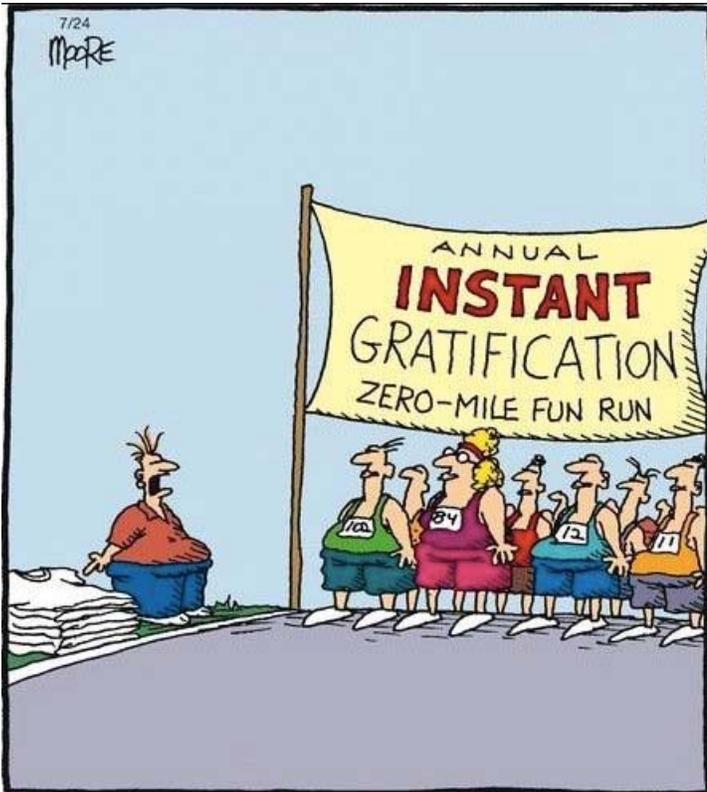
The farming of sunflowers on a commercial scale took off in the 1800s, overseas, where the American seeds had been taken by Spanish explorers. Before then, Peter the Great promoted the plant as an ornamental for gardens, but by 1830, the plant was being mass produced for its oil, according to [The National Sunflower Association](#). The Russians cultivated the two major types of sunflowers -- one for oil and one for human consumption, or seeds.



# GYM IN DECEMBER



# GYM IN JANUARY



"Runners to your mark. Get set. Go! ... OK, come get your T-shirts."

# PRAETORIAN GUARD



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OBAMA WHINING ABOUT  
FOX NEWS IS LIKE  
A FOOTBALL PLAYER  
BADMOUTHING THE  
ONLY CHEERLEADER  
THAT WON'T  
SLEEP WITH HIM.

GREG GUTFELD

