

## A Lack of Humanity

*By Pete Clark*

The Digital Age is here. Everything is online and there are very few filters. There is a lot of information out there, waiting to trap the unsuspecting. Due to my past association with Right Wing Extremists, Judicial Watch appeared on my Facebook page and remained there. I didn't know how to get rid of it.

Judicial Watch is the nonexistent conspiracy to tarnish the name Clinton, funded by the Koch brothers. I worked with a woman who was hired by that organization to go to Washington, D.C. to dig up dirt on the Clintons. No one could come out clean under such a microscopic examination. Lies were added to the damaging information, for publication on line. One of those lies resulted in the firing of an assault rifle inside of a Washington restaurant. An old friend sent me an email stating that the Clintons were running a juvenile sex ring in the basement of a New York city restaurant, but I don't believe everything I read.

A larger problem than political propaganda is dependence on social media for contact with other people and information. Those who depend on the internet for their relationships are surrounded by silence and the lack of the warmth of real friendship from real people. Man is essentially a social animal, with family and friends and associates for company and support. You don't have that circle of support if you spend all of your time on an iPhone or a computer. Warmth and humanity go out of the picture.

I received an email from my health insurance company, asking if I would like to do all of my business with them on line. I told them I did not want to do that. They asked why I did not want to use the internet for my healthcare. I replied that a computer has no personality. I should have said that I could not ask a computer questions, whether it was on the internet or a robocall. When their computer calls me about a doctor's appointment that was two months ago, I am stymied. I can't remember what I did yesterday, let alone two months ago.

A lot of people, especially young people, spend their spare time on their iPhones, isolating themselves from family and friends. They live in a make-believe world with a mass of friends, who are total strangers. They may respond to tweets or posts and their replies may be friendly, cynical or bullying, but whatever is said will lack the warmth and humanity of a personal conversation. Eventually a person can find their social wants and needs unfulfilled and be in a state of isolation. All too often the disengagement from humanity can end in suicide. Once again, it is mostly young people who end their lives.

I have no answers, only questions.