

2019 Holiday Greetings from Laurel and Brian

At this time of the year it's impossible for us to avoid focusing on a large, overweight, elderly man who abuses his power in such highly disturbing ways that he richly deserves impeachment.

Of course, we're talking about... Santa Claus.

It's amazing that, so far as we know, no one has drawn up Articles of Impeachment against this sleazy guy. But that's come to an end, because it's time to restore the honor and dignity of Christmas by speaking truth to Santa Claus' power.

Article 1. Guilty of illegal surveillance. There's compelling documentary evidence that Santa Claus engages in spying on people around the world, including the United States, without obtaining a FISA warrant or any other legal permission. Here are pertinent lyrics from *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*.

"He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good. So be good for goodness sake."

This is outrageous. People have a right to privacy in their bedrooms. *Especially* their bedrooms, which often are used for, um, activities other than sleeping. No one wants a creepy old guy viewing their most private moments.

Article 2. Guilty of obvious quid pro quo. Don't be fooled by the attempt to excuse the above-mentioned illegal surveillance by the mention of "be good for goodness sake."

That meaningless tautology is at odds with an indisputable fact: Santa Claus has immense power as the bestower of presents on Christmas Day. Additional lyrics make clear how that power is used.

"Santa Claus is coming to town. He's making a list. Checking it twice. Gonna find out who's naughty or nice."

Thus it is evident that Santa Claus decides whether to release presents to people on the basis of whether their actions conform to arbitrary moral standards known only to Santa Claus himself.

Article 3. Guilty of animal abuse. It is impossible to believe that Santa Claus was unaware of how badly Rudolph had been treated by his fellow reindeer given the all-knowing facts expressed in Article 1. Here is the sordid truth contained in the lyrics of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

"All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names. They never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games."

Yes, at some point Santa Claus used Rudolph to guide his sleigh, but this did nothing to excuse the many years, centuries most likely, of Santa Claus' shameful standing-by while Rudolph suffered at the hands of the other reindeer.

Article 4. Guilty of sexual misconduct. A lyric to *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus* says it all: "I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus underneath the mistletoe last night." No mention of informed consent. It saddens us to say this, but Santa Claus is a harasser of women who takes advantage of the power imbalance between him and his victims.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2020, with or without impeachment. Though our beloved ZuZu died a few months ago from end-stage liver disease, we have a new dog, Mooka, a Husky mix who brightens the new year.