

May 25, 2015

The cartoonists have a special day of fun with the Clinton campaign.

**Ron Fournier**, left/liberal, from The National Journal continues the charge against H. Clinton.

*I don't believe her.*

*I don't believe Hillary Rodham Clinton when she says—as she did at a brief news conference on Tuesday—that she has no control over the release of her State Department email. "They're not mine. They belong to the State Department."*

*I don't believe her because a person's actions are more revealing than words: She kept her government email on a secret server and, only under pressure from Congress, returned less than half of them to the State Department. She deleted the rest. She considered them hers.*

*I don't believe her when she says, "I want those emails out. Nobody has a bigger interest in those being released than I do."*

*I don't believe her because I've covered the Clintons since the 1980s and know how dedicated they are to what former Clinton spokesman Mike McCurry called "telling the truth slowly." The fact is that she would rather delay the document dump until early 2016—and then have the email released on a single day to overwhelm the media and allow her to declare herself exonerated. That was her strategic choice, Clinton advisers confirmed for me, until a federal judge ordered the State Department on Tuesday to release the email in stages. ...*

**Roger Simon** wonders if Sid Vicious will upend the Clinton campaign.

*Another shoe, a big one this time, dropped in the endless Benghazi-missing-emails-erased-servers-what-difference-does-it-make controversy that the Clintonistas are trying so hard to push under the rug before it upends Dame Hillary's presidential campaign. And the scoop comes, once again, from the New York Times, of all places, not some rascally website run by rightwing lunatics like this one.*

*Emails have surfaced from long-time Clinton bag man Sid Blumenthal indicating the whole Libya debacle was instigated by a cast of sleazy lowlife profiteers out of an Elmore Leonard novel.*

*Smarmy Sid was pumping info from this dramatis personae to Hillary (at more than one email address) about goings on in that benighted country and our then secretary of state believed him — at least most of the time — passing his "knowledge" on to her underlings.*

*And this is a woman who wants to be president?*

*We know the results of this insider information: Gaddafi gone, four Americans killed in Benghazi, including an ambassador, with Libya a massively failed state overrun by ISIS goons who lop the heads off Christians by the seaside for sport. Good work, Hillary. Good work, Sid. ...*

**Paul Mirengoff** has more on the curious Clinton connection to Sid Blumenthal.

*... Blumenthal reprised his role as Clinton hatchet man during the 2008 campaign. Team Obama came to despise Blumenthal so much that President Obama barred Hillary Clinton from giving him a spot at the State Department.*

*Which brings us to 2011 and Libya. According to the New York Times account, a group of U.S. businessmen who hoped to do business in post-Qaddafi Libya retained Blumenthal. From all that appears, the Clintons' hatchet man had zero experience with Libya or with the businesses the Americans hoped to establish there.*

*Plainly, Blumenthal was retained because of his connection to Secretary of State Clinton. The Times points out that the projects contemplated by the U.S. businessmen — creating hospitals and building schools — would have required State Department sign off (but they never got that far).*

*Blumenthal began writing memos to Hillary Clinton about the situation in Libya. The existence of such memos became known due to the efforts of a Romanian hacker. Otherwise, given Hillary's document non-retention policy, the memos probably would never have come to light.*

*According to the Times, Blumenthal sent at least 25 Libya memos to Hillary. One of them praised the efforts of Libya's new prime minister to stabilize his government by choosing officials experienced in dealing with Western governments and businesses. ...*

**Jennifer Rubin** posts on the Clintons' "blizzard of malfeasance."

*Perhaps Hillary Clinton is counting on the number of scandals, untruths and misdeeds to numb the public and media at some point. It's not a bad strategy given the stuff that seems to wash up on the shore from the Clintons each day.*

*Recall what we already know: She kept a private server at her home in violation of State Department policy. She wiped the server clean so no third party could examine more than 30,000 e-mails. She signed an agreement with the administration promising to disclose potential conflicts regarding her husband's speeches; she violated it repeatedly. Her foundation continued to receive foreign donations and in some cases pay for Bill Clinton's speeches while Hillary Clinton was in office. The foundation has been described by a charity watchdog as a sort of slush fund whereby those wanting to gain access and favors to a president-in-waiting could contribute (with a tax write-off!). Numerous firms (including a Russian purchaser of critical uranium) and countries from whom the Clintons received speaking fees and/or contributions to the foundation wound up with business before the administration. The foundation in turn gave her visibility, paid for exorbitant travel and employed her cronies. That catches us up to this week.*

*So far — and it is only Tuesday — we have learned that despite her lawyer's representations to the contrary, Hillary Clinton used yet another private e-mail address. Those e-mails (the ones not destroyed) that were turned over to the State Department are not going to be made public until January 2016. So much for coming clean any time soon. And now to top it off we learn famous Clinton flunky Sid Blumenthal, who was barred from working at the State Department, was busy writing policy memos for the secretary. The New York Times reports: ...*

From NY Post Page Six we learn that Chelsea is driving away Clinton Foundation staff.

*Chelsea Clinton is so unpleasant to colleagues, she's causing high turnover at the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, sources say.*

*Several top staffers have left the foundation since Chelsea came on board as vice chairman in 2011.*

*"A lot of people left because she was there. A lot of people left because she didn't want them there," an insider told me. "She is very difficult."*

*Onetime CEO Bruce Lindsey was pushed upstairs to the position of chairman of the board two years ago, so that Chelsea could bring in her McKinsey colleague Eric Braverman.*

*"He [Braverman] was her boy, but he tried to hire his own communications professional and actually tried to run the place. He didn't understand that that wasn't what he was supposed to be doing," said my source. "He was pushed out." ...*

Looking forward to the 2016 vote, John Podhoretz wonders if the "ick factor" will doom Hillary and the Dems.

*... At that point, a few million votes either way might be likely to decide the outcome.*

*That's when the get-out-the-vote skills of the campaigns will come into play — as well as certain intangibles that play a key role in helping those last few million voters who may or may not go to the polls or have not yet decided make up their minds.*

*One of those is something you might call "the ick factor." What kind of association does the candidate's name conjure up? Is it positive or negative?*

*Democrats spent most of 2012 raising the ick factor associated with Mitt Romney's name — condemning the supposed evils of his investment banking firm, publicizing his privately uttered remark that 47 percent of the electorate had become wards of the state, raising questions about his essential character because he was mean to a kid in high school and once put the family dog in a carrier on the roof of his car.*

*In this respect, Republicans are ahead of the game. Hillary is beginning her trek to November 2016 with a built-in "ick factor" regarding her essential truthfulness and the sense that she spends her life dancing around and about ethical lines.*

*Now, there will be a Republican nominee, and what was done to Romney will be done to him to the extent possible.*

*So what we may have, as Election Day nears, is a choice between relatively unattractive options. What's far from clear is how Hillary can make herself even remotely attractive from here on in to anyone who isn't already in her camp.*

*The tarnishment is permanent. The Clinton brand is damaged. The question is whether it's going to tarnish the Democratic Party.*

**Spengler** asks if the American people are as corrupt as the Clintons.

*I have been reading Peter Schweizer's book Clinton Cash with brief pauses to wipe the puke off the computer screen. For the past fifteen years, there has been no sewer too stinky for Bill and Hillary to bathe in. Most of Schweizer's research has already made the mainstream media, but the sheer mass of it still amazes. It's not one malfeasance or three, but an unbroken pattern of overtly corrupt behavior trading half-million-dollar speaking fees and multi-million-dollar payoffs to the Clintons' foundation in return for billion-dollar mining concessions and corporate takeovers staged by the most revolting gangsters in the jungle of Third World governance. The English language needs a word like the Yiddish term "chutzpah" to describe them, but without the connotation of modesty and discretion.*

*What kind of people are we Americans, that we allow these kleptocrat's hirelings to persist in public life? The answer, I fear, is that we have become corrupt ourselves. I've seen enough corruption in the Third World to know that it requires the consent of the governed. ...*

*... As Schweizer reports, America's favorite power couple made millions from Kazakhstan dictator Nurslitan Nazarbayev. In 2005 Bill came to the homeland of Borat with Canadian penny-stock speculator Frank Giustra. Giustra's shell company UrAsia Energy, a paper entity with no track record, beat out bigger competition to scupper Kazakhstan's uranium mining concession. Bill endorsed Nazarbayev's bid to head the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe, a human rights organization founded by the 1975 Helsinki Accords, despite Nazarbayev's execrable human rights record. Senator Hillary Clinton lifted her previous objection to Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the organization. ...*

*... Americans are becoming a nation of hustlers. 87% of men of working age used to belong to the labor force. Now it's down to 70%. ...*

*... Democracy exists to give people the kind of government they deserve. If the American people do not have the moral fibre to extirpate corruption on the Clinton scale, they will deserve what's coming to them.*

---

---

---

**National Journal**

**[I Don't Believe Hillary Clinton](#)**

***Rare news conference doesn't address credibility gap.***

by Ron Fournier

I don't believe her.

I don't believe Hillary Rodham Clinton when she says—as she did at a brief news conference on Tuesday—that she has no control over the release of her State Department email. "They're not mine. They belong to the State Department."

I don't believe her because a person's actions are more revealing than words: She kept her government email on a secret server and, only under pressure from Congress, returned less than half of them to the State Department. She deleted the rest. She considered them hers.

I don't believe her when she says, "I want those emails out. Nobody has a bigger interest in those being released than I do."

I don't believe her because I've covered the Clintons since the 1980s and know how dedicated they are to [what former Clinton spokesman Mike McCurry called](#) "telling the truth slowly." The fact is that she would rather delay the document dump until early 2016—and then have the email released on a single day to overwhelm the media and allow her to declare herself exonerated. That was her strategic choice, Clinton advisers confirmed for me, until a federal judge [ordered the State Department on Tuesday](#) to release the email in stages.

I don't believe her answer to this question: Is there a conflict of interest in accepting huge speaking fees from special interests seeking government action? "No," she replied.

I don't believe her because I saw how hard Clinton and her husband, then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, worked to pass the state's first sweeping ethics initiative. I don't believe her because I've heard Clinton and her husband rail against GOP politicians who were guilty of less-obvious conflicts of interest. I don't believe her because there have been far too many credible news reports about the blurring of lines between family finances, the family foundation, and her political and government interests.

I believe the public has a right to know whether any of the deleted email involved correspondence about the Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Foundation or its donors. I believe she's getting bad advice: The hide-and-attack tactics of the 1990s won't work as well—if at all—in a post-Internet era that honors transparency, authenticity, and accountability.

I believe she wants us to take her at her word, but we can't—not even those people like me who've known the Clintons long enough to respect their service and appreciate their many virtues. It hurts to witness the self-inflicted wounds and hemorrhaging of her credibility. But this is no time for sentimentality.

Blind faith doesn't get you elected president.

I do believe she's right about one thing. "I made a mistake," Clinton said about her Senate vote to authorize war against Iraq. "Plain and simple."

**Roger L. Simon**

**[Watergate Redux? Will Sid 'Vicious' Upend Hillary?](#)**

Another shoe, a big one this time, dropped in the endless Benghazi-missing-emails-erased-servers-what-difference-does-it-make controversy that the Clintonistas are trying so hard to push under the rug before it upends Dame Hillary's presidential campaign. And the scoop comes, once again, from the [New York Times](#), of all places, not some rascally website run by rightwing lunatics like this one.

Emails have surfaced from long-time Clinton bag man Sid Blumenthal indicating the whole Libya debacle was instigated by a cast of sleazy lowlife profiteers out of an Elmore Leonard novel.

Smarmy Sid was pumping info from this *dramatis personae* to Hillary (at more than one email address) about goings on in that benighted country and our then secretary of state believed him — at least most of the time — passing his “knowledge” on to her underlings.

And this is a woman who wants to be president?

We know the results of this insider information: Gaddafi gone, four Americans killed in Benghazi, including an ambassador, with Libya a massively failed state overrun by ISIS goons who lop the heads off Christians by the seaside for sport. Good work, Hillary. Good work, Sid.

From the *Times*:

...an examination by The New York Times suggests that Mr. Blumenthal's involvement was more wide-ranging and more complicated than previously known, embodying the blurry lines between business, politics and philanthropy that have enriched and vexed the Clintons and their inner circle for years.

While advising Mrs. Clinton on Libya, Mr. Blumenthal, who had been barred from a State Department job by aides to President Obama, was also employed by her family's philanthropy, the Clinton Foundation, to help with research, “message guidance” and planning of commemorative events, according to foundation officials. During the same period, he also worked on and off as a paid consultant to Media Matters and American Bridge, organizations that helped lay the groundwork for Mrs. Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Much of the Libya intelligence that Mr. Blumenthal passed on to Mrs. Clinton appears to have come from a group of business associates he was advising as they sought to win contracts from the Libyan transitional government. The venture, which was ultimately unsuccessful, involved other Clinton friends, a private military contractor and one former C.I.A. spy seeking to get in on the ground floor of the new Libyan economy.

See what I mean — pure Elmore Leonard. (Too bad he's dead — but his [website](#) lives on.) Nevertheless we appear to be at tip-of-the-iceberg time. This is a potential American nightmare and the *New York Times* finds itself in the middle of it. (Go figure.) That being the case, however, the Clintons have something to worry about. The editorial staff will no doubt do their usual best to whitewash things, but a few reporters at least are doing their jobs (in this case Nicholas Confessore and Michael S. Schmidt). Others may join in. Will it be another Watergate? Who knows? But it would be ironic. After all, that's where Hilary got her start. Will it be where she gets her end?

And now for a little personal disclosure. I know Sid Blumenthal (a bit). Back in another life, during the Clinton presidency, some friends thought we had things in common (Blumenthal was trying to write plays and I was a Hollywood screenwriter) and put us together for dinner, one on one, at a Washington restaurant. I was impressed with Sid — he was obviously a smart guy — but he couldn't stop talking about Hillary. I knew he had her ear and that was interesting to me, of course (I was still a liberal then), but there was something obsessive about it. His whole life appeared to revolve around his relationship to the Clintons. Later he became their great defender — denying adultery against all evidence — during the Monica crisis.

That's what often happens to writers when they get close to power. It bowls them over in a way and they lose objectivity. I have seen that start to happen to me on other occasions and I have

to guard against it. But Blumenthal then and now seems to have eaten the whole proverbial enchilada. And now he's going to have to pay for it. Evidently, he's going to be subpoenaed by Trey Gowdy to testify on camera. As many other writers have said before.... to be continued....

MEANWHILE... who obstructs justice better than the [State Department](#)?

## Power Line

### [Hillary Clinton, "Sid Vicious," and Libya](#)

by Paul Mirengoff

[The New York Times](#) presents an account of Sidney Blumenthal's memos to Hillary Clinton concerning Libya. For the benefit of our younger readers and those with short memories, I should say that during Bill Clinton's presidency, Blumenthal was probably the slimiest of Team Clinton's operatives, earning the nickname Sid Vicious.

For example, according to Christopher Hitchens, once Blumenthal's good friend, vicious Sid [spread defamatory stories](#) about Monica Lewinsky. Hitchens swore in an affidavit that Blumenthal had told him this. Blumenthal denied both smearing Lewinsky and admitting it to Hitchens.

I was never a fan of Hitchens. But I'd back him in a swearing contest with Blumenthal 100 times out of 100.

I'd also back Hitchens in a war of words with almost anyone. In a review of Blumenthal's book *The Clinton Wars*, which Hitchens titled "Thinking like an apparatchik," he described Bill Clinton's use of Blumenthal [this way](#):

He threw away the plum and kept the pit, of which this book is the ground-up residue.

Blumenthal reprised his role as Clinton hatchet man during the 2008 campaign. Team Obama came to despise Blumenthal so much that President Obama barred Hillary Clinton from giving him a spot at the State Department.

Which brings us to 2011 and Libya. According to the New York Times account, a group of U.S. businessmen who hoped to do business in post-Qaddafi Libya retained Blumenthal. From all that appears, the Clintons' hatchet man had zero experience with Libya or with the businesses the Americans hoped to establish there.

Plainly, Blumenthal was retained because of his connection to Secretary of State Clinton. The Times points out that the projects contemplated by the U.S. businessmen — creating hospitals and building schools — would have required State Department sign off (but they never got that far).

Blumenthal began writing memos to Hillary Clinton about the situation in Libya. The existence of such memos became known due to the efforts of a Romanian hacker. Otherwise, given Hillary's document non-retention policy, the memos probably would never have come to light.

According to the Times, Blumenthal sent at least 25 Libya memos to Hillary. One of them praised the efforts of Libya's new prime minister to stabilize his government by choosing officials experienced in dealing with Western governments and businesses.

Blumenthal singled out one official as particularly influential. But he did not disclose that his business associates were hoping that this official would finance their projects.

In this instance, Blumenthal's "intelligence" seems to have been driven by a business agenda. And, indeed, the Times reports that much of the information Blumenthal provided to Clinton "appears to have come from a group of business associates he was advising as they sought to win contracts from the Libyan transitional government."

Did Hillary Clinton take Blumenthal's "intel" seriously? You bet. According to the Times, she frequently circulated his memos to her chief of staff, Jake Sullivan, and told him to distribute them to other State Department officials. They were often sent to U.S. diplomats in Libya, including the ambassador, the late Christopher Stevens.

But the quality of Blumenthal's "intel" appears to have been poor. Some of it consisted of rumors that diplomats knew to be false. "Not infrequently," says the Times, Hillary's subordinates responded to the memos with "polite skepticism."

Sullivan once derided a Blumenthal offering as a "conspiracy theory." Such theories have long been Blumenthal's stock-in-trade. As [The Guardian](#) said of Blumenthal's book *Clinton Wars*, "conspiracy theorists everywhere should read Sidney Blumenthal's version of Clinton's presidency." No wonder Hillary ("vast right-wing conspiracy") Clinton likes his work.

Stevens himself challenged Blumenthal's assessment that the Muslim Brotherhood was poised to do well in 2012 parliamentary elections. As it turned out, the Brotherhood fared poorly.

The Times report will add to Blumenthal's legacy as one of the most unsavory characters in American political history. But what are its implications for Hillary Clinton?

First, I doubt that Blumenthal's pathetic intel can, on the current record, be tied to Hillary Clinton's decision to support the toppling of Qaddafi. The Times says that some of Blumenthal's memos predate the death of Qaddafi. But I gather from the report they don't predate our intervention. According to the Times, the American businessmen for whom Blumenthal worked became interested in Libya only after it looked like Qaddafi was done.

This doesn't mean that Blumenthal's memos did not influence other important (but lesser) decisions by Secretary of State Clinton. But nothing in the Times report shows that this was so. Perhaps Trey Gowdy's investigation will shed light on this matter.

Second, Clinton will be criticized for the irregularity of using a back channel source. However, as a general matter, I don't have a problem with this. [Her response](#) to the Blumenthal story is correct *in principle*: Top government officials shouldn't necessarily rely exclusively on what their bureaucrats tell them. Trusted outsiders may have something to offer.

But third, Clinton showed incredibly poor judgment in thinking that Blumenthal's reports added value. As shown above, Blumenthal had a business interest in Libya and was getting his information from business associates.

Did Clinton know about Blumenthal's business interest? The Times apparently is unable to say.

If she did know, then it is inexcusable that she burdened her underlings with Blumenthal's musing. But even if she didn't know, her reliance on Blumenthal is problematic.

Former CIA official Paul Pillar told the Times that Blumenthal's reports aped the style of official government intelligence reports but without assessing the motives of his sources (for obvious reasons). Thus, "the sourcing is pretty sloppy in a way that would never pass muster if it were the work of a reports officer at a U.S. intelligence agency."

On their face, then, Blumenthal's reports were unworthy of the attention Hillary Clinton paid to them. And everyone who read them seems to have recognized this — except Hillary.

Finally, let's keep in mind that President Obama had banned Blumenthal from a role at the State Department. Yet Hillary let him into the tent.

Does the Blumenthal story constitute a serious Hillary Clinton scandal? Based on what we know so far, I would say no. But at a minimum, it represents another count in the case against Clinton's judgment and, arguably, even her competence.

And it may add to the sense of Clinton fatigue many may already be experiencing (inevitably, Blumenthal turns out to have been employed by the Clinton Foundation while he was providing "intelligence" to Hillary).

At this point it's more than fair to wonder (1) whether Hillary can do anything by the book and (2) whether there is any instruction from her boss, the president of the United States, that she didn't try to skirt.

## **Right Turn** **Clinton's blizzard of malfeasance**

by Jennifer Rubin

Perhaps Hillary Clinton is counting on the number of scandals, untruths and misdeeds to numb the public and media at some point. It's not a bad strategy given the stuff that seems to wash up on the shore from the Clintons each day.

Recall what we already know: She kept a private server at her home in violation of State Department policy. She wiped the server clean so no third party could examine more than 30,000 e-mails. She signed an agreement with the administration promising to disclose potential conflicts regarding her husband's speeches; she violated it repeatedly. Her [foundation continued](#) to receive foreign donations and in some cases pay for Bill Clinton's speeches while Hillary Clinton was in office. The foundation has been described by a [charity watchdog](#) as a sort of slush fund whereby those wanting to gain access and favors to a president-in-waiting could contribute (with a tax write-off!). Numerous firms (including a [Russian purchaser](#) of critical uranium) and countries from whom the Clintons received speaking fees and/or contributions to the foundation wound up with business before the administration. The foundation in turn gave her visibility, paid for exorbitant travel and employed her cronies. That catches us up to this week.

So far — and it is only Tuesday — we have learned that despite her lawyer’s representations to the contrary, Hillary Clinton used [yet another private e-mail address](#). Those e-mails (the ones not destroyed) that were turned over to the State Department are not going to be made public until January 2016. So much for coming clean any time soon. And now to top it off we learn famous [Clinton flunky Sid Blumenthal](#), who was barred from working at the State Department, was busy writing policy memos for the secretary. The New York Times reports:

When the Clintons last occupied the White House, Sidney Blumenthal cast himself in varied roles: speechwriter, in-house intellectual and press corps whisperer. Republicans added another, accusing Mr. Blumenthal of spreading gossip to discredit Republican investigators, and forced him to testify during President Bill Clinton’s impeachment trial. . . . According to emails obtained by The New York Times, Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, took Mr. Blumenthal’s advice seriously, forwarding his memos to senior diplomatic officials in Libya and Washington and at times asking them to respond. Mrs. Clinton continued to pass around his memos even after other senior diplomats concluded that Mr. Blumenthal’s assessments were often unreliable.

But an examination by The Times suggests that Mr. Blumenthal’s involvement was more wide-ranging and more complicated than previously known, embodying the blurry lines between business, politics and philanthropy that have enriched and vexed the Clintons and their inner circle for years. . . . It is not clear whether Mrs. Clinton or the State Department knew of Mr. Blumenthal’s interest in pursuing business in Libya; a State Department spokesman declined to say. Many aspects of Mr. Blumenthal’s involvement in the planned Libyan venture remain unclear. He declined repeated requests to discuss it.

But interviews with his associates and a review of previously unreported correspondence suggest that — once again — it may be difficult to determine where one of Mr. Blumenthal’s jobs ended and another began.

Clinton’s judgment here is horrific — from using a private e-mail account to allowing someone so obviously conflicted to spread his views within her department to taking advice on foreign policy at all from Blumenthal. (“The emails suggest that Mr. Blumenthal’s direct line to Mrs. Clinton circumvented the elaborate procedures established by the federal government to ensure that high-level officials are provided with vetted assessments of available intelligence.”)

[The Fix](#) observed that when asked about Blumenthal, Clinton’s answer — that she was going to keep old friends around — was certainly not reassuring. “So, jettisoning ‘old friends’ who keep getting the Clintons into hairy territory perception-wise would seem to make all the sense in the world. And yet, her response when questioned about Blumenthal’s role as a sort of ad hoc adviser on Libya, is, basically, Hey I’ve known this guy for a long time so I’m not going to say anything bad about him.” No, the Clintons learn nothing; they only double down.



*Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel, left, with Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton last year in Tempe, Ariz.*

It is easy to see that Clinton's behavior was not merely sleazy or improper; it also caused her to rely on and urge others to rely on unvetted information from a conflicted source. In short, she let her crony put suspect material into the system. Once again, her personal relationships trumped her obligation to the public.

At this point I don't think Clinton could be confirmed for any high government post, and yet she wants a promotion to president. She is likely banking on the number and details of the scandals to cause voters' eyes to glaze over. But what is the excuse for Democratic officeholders and party insiders to refrain from condemning the growing list of misdeeds? It's remarkable — and somewhat horrifying — that serious Democrats aren't trying to get someone else who is a viable nominee.

## **NY Post**

### **[Staff quit Clinton Foundation over Chelsea](#)**

by Richard Johnson

[Chelsea Clinton](#) is so unpleasant to colleagues, she's causing high turnover at the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, sources say.

Several top staffers have left the foundation since Chelsea came on board as vice chairman in 2011.

"A lot of people left because she was there. A lot of people left because she didn't want them there," an insider told me. "She is very difficult."

Onetime CEO Bruce Lindsey was pushed upstairs to the position of chairman of the board two years ago, so that Chelsea could bring in her McKinsey colleague Eric Braverman.

“He [Braverman] was her boy, but he tried to hire his own communications professional and actually tried to run the place. He didn’t understand that that wasn’t what he was supposed to be doing,” said my source. “He was pushed out.”

Matt McKenna was Chelsea’s spokesman, and then he wasn’t. Now he works for Uber. Ginny Ehrlich, the founding CEO of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, now works for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Chelsea has embraced all the trappings of a corporate CEO, with a personal staff almost as big as her father’s. “He has six. She has five,” said my source.

None of this would surprise her former co-workers at McKinsey and NBC News. At both the management consulting firm and the network, co-workers allegedly were told they couldn’t approach Chelsea.

A source at NBC, [where Chelsea was paid \\$600,000 a year](#), said, “If someone wanted to talk to Chelsea about something, they had to go through a producer.”

For [Bill Clinton](#) loyalists who grew the foundation from nothing, the high turnover and the ethical questions over its funding are demoralizing. “It’s sad to see what’s happening. The operational planning has gone downhill,” said a source.

Instead of being something Hillary can point to with pride, the foundation has become a bloated slush fund that some critics say deserves an official investigation. And Chelsea’s fingerprints are all over it.

## NY Post

### [How the 'ick factor' could doom Hillary --- and her party](#)

by John Podhoretz

Another day, another three Hillary stories — all of which continue the ongoing tarnishment of the Clinton brand.

Tarnishment (n): The dilution of the quality of a trademark due to its association with a similar but inferior or more questionable version.

First, Fox News revealed the contents of a Defense Intelligence Agency report written one day after four Americans were killed in Benghazi in 2012.

According to the report, “the attack was planned ten or more days prior to approximately 01 September 2012.

“The intention was to attack the consulate and to kill as many Americans as possible to seek revenge for the US killing of Aboyahiye (Alaliby) in Pakistan and in memorial of the 11 September 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center buildings.”

No YouTube video. No spontaneous demonstration.

It was a planned attack by an al Qaeda affiliate, and the administration knew it.

Either Mrs. Clinton flat-out lied about this when she testified before Congress, or she was, for months, spectacularly uninterested in the facts surrounding the slaughter of our ambassador in Libya along with three American contractors.

Second, The New York Times revealed Mrs. Clinton had a secret private email account through which she communed with her longtime consigliere, Sidney Blumenthal, despite having sworn (though not under oath) she'd only had the one.

Third, Politico reported yesterday that a federal judge has ordered the State Department to start releasing Mrs. Clinton's emails from her time as secretary of state — or whatever's left of them following the mass destruction of tens of thousands of such communications.

Foggy Bottom had tried to claim it couldn't possibly begin to do so until next year.

Drip, drip, drip.

Now, anyone on the right hoping that Hillary's candidacy will be derailed by these revelations or the results of investigations into the Clinton Foundation is likely to be disappointed.

Good gun controllers like the Clintons would never leave a smoking pistol around, and let's face it, if there had been one, it went up in virtual flames when those infamous HDR22@clintonemail.com messages were permanently de-pixelated.

And right now, despite the understandable level of befuddled disbelief about the lack of a serious rival to Hillary in an open presidential nominating contest, the Democratic Party would be crazy to panic and ditch her (if it could).

She still polls better than every Republican nationally, she's the most popular Democrat by a country mile and she's one of the most famous people on Earth.

Still, the tarnishment problem is very real, and it may be the Republican ace in the hole in the last few weeks of the 2016 election.

At that point, a few million votes either way might be likely to decide the outcome.

That's when the get-out-the-vote skills of the campaigns will come into play — as well as certain intangibles that play a key role in helping those last few million voters who may or may not go to the polls or have not yet decided make up their minds.

One of those is something you might call "the ick factor." What kind of association does the candidate's name conjure up? Is it positive or negative?

Democrats spent most of 2012 raising the ick factor associated with Mitt Romney's name — condemning the supposed evils of his investment banking firm, publicizing his privately uttered remark that 47 percent of the electorate had become wards of the state, raising questions about his essential character because he was mean to a kid in high school and once put the family dog in a carrier on the roof of his car.

In this respect, Republicans are ahead of the game. Hillary is beginning her trek to November 2016 with a built-in “ick factor” regarding her essential truthfulness and the sense that she spends her life dancing around and about ethical lines.

Now, there will be a Republican nominee, and what was done to Romney will be done to him to the extent possible.

So what we may have, as Election Day nears, is a choice between relatively unattractive options. What’s far from clear is how Hillary can make herself even remotely attractive from here on in to anyone who isn’t already in her camp.

The tarnishment is permanent. The Clinton brand is damaged. The question is whether it’s going to tarnish the Democratic Party.

## **Pajamas Media**

### **[Are the American people as corrupt as the Clintons?](#)**

by Spengler

I have been reading Peter Schweizer’s book [Clinton Cash](#) with brief pauses to wipe the puke off the computer screen. For the past fifteen years, there has been no sewer too stinky for Bill and Hillary to bathe in. Most of Schweizer’s research has already made the mainstream media, but the sheer mass of it still amazes. It’s not one malfeasance or three, but an unbroken pattern of overtly corrupt behavior trading half-million-dollar speaking fees and multi-million-dollar payoffs to the Clintons’ foundation in return for billion-dollar mining concessions and corporate takeovers staged by the most revolting gangsters in the jungle of Third World governance. The English language needs a word like the Yiddish term “chutzpah” to describe them, but without the connotation of modesty and discretion.

What kind of people are we Americans, that we allow these kleptocrat’s hirelings to persist in public life? The answer, I fear, is that we have become corrupt ourselves. I’ve seen enough corruption in the Third World to know that it requires the consent of the governed. Between 1988 and 1993, I directed a Mexican research project on tax and regulatory reform. In 1990, I advised Violeta Chamorro after her election victory over Nicaragua’s Sandinistas for exactly one week, coaching her team in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund. Back then I was chief economist for the consulting firm Polyconomics, and I canceled the contract after one of Mrs. Chamorro’s advisers handed me our fee in the form of an envelope full of \$100 bills—duly declared and reported to the U.S. tax authorities. In 1992, I was asked to advise Russian Finance Minister Yegor Gaidar on currency stabilization after the fall of Communism, and made several trips to Moscow. I never did meet Gaidar, but I saw enough of the looting of state assets to persuade me to get out of Dodge. Rather than pursue emerging markets, I shifted to quantitative modeling of high-grade bonds. Even that field turned rotten in the subprime scam two decades later, but that’s [another story](#).

Corruption in Third World kleptocracies starts at the top but trickles down to the grass roots. Every bill-collector for the public utility takes bribes not to turn off the gas or electricity—it’s cheaper to pay a bribe than to pay the bill. Every secretary in a government office takes a tip to give you the form you need to fill out to hand to the boss who will take another *mordida*, or bite. Everyone hustles, everyone has a scam. The people at the bottom look up in envy and

contempt at the billionaire thieves who run their country, but live their lives in emulation of them; if they were tough or smart enough, they would steal billions, too. We Americans used to be better than at. I don't think we are any longer.

As Schweizer reports, America's favorite power couple made millions from Kazakhstan dictator Nurslطان Nazarbayev. In 2005 Bill came to the homeland of Borat with Canadian penny-stock speculator Frank Giustra. Giustra's shell company UrAsia Energy, a paper entity with no track record, beat out bigger competition to scupper Kazakhstan's uranium mining concession. Bill endorsed Nazarbayev's bid to head the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe, a human rights organization founded by the 1975 Helsinki Accords, despite Nazarbayev's execrable human rights record. Senator Hillary Clinton lifted her previous objection to Kazakhstan's chairmanship of the organization.

Schweizer reports:

In the months that followed, Giustra gave the Clinton Foundation \$31.3 million. It was the first of several large donations he would make as he went on to secure other lucrative national resources deals in development countries around the world...

At the time of Clinton's visit, Kazakhstan was on the verge of a national election. Days after Clinton departed, the opposition party's campaign headquarters were ravaged by fire in an arson attack. On October 12 heavily armed police temporarily arrested the opposition party's leader....In December 2005 Nazarbayev won reelection with more than 90 percent of the vote. Bill sent him a note of congratulations. "Recognizing that your work has received an excellent grade is one of the most important rewards in life," he wrote. "At the start of your new term as president, I would like to express confidence that you will continue to live up to the expectations of your people." The Kazakh dictator promptly released Clinton's congratulatory note to the public.

There's more, and more, and more in Schweizer's book. Less astonishing than the facts he has assembled is that everything is on the public record. They put the Mexicans to shame. Latin American dictators and their cronies don't twerk their wallets in front of the television cameras. For example: During the "reform" administration of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the government privatized billions of dollars of state assets, including the country's largest commercial banks. Mexican politicians bought shares through secret Caribbean bank accounts from the government and flipped them back to private buyers at a higher price, and the private buyers took the deal as the price of admission. I know this from private-sector bidders for state assets who turned the deal down. None of it was traceable, much less visible to the public; if some public officials made vast sums from the scam, they didn't flaunt their ill-gotten gains. They kept them in offshore bank accounts and lived with a minimum of publicity. Bill Clinton does his act in front of any gangster who will pay him—including two in Lagos, Nigeria for \$700,000 each, in return for evident favors to unspeakably corrupt Nigerian "businessmen."

Americans are becoming a nation of hustlers. 87% of American men of working age used to belong to the labor force. Now it's down to 70%.



What are the other 30% of American men doing? Nicholas Eberstadt gave part of the answer in his 2012 book [A Nation of Takers](#):

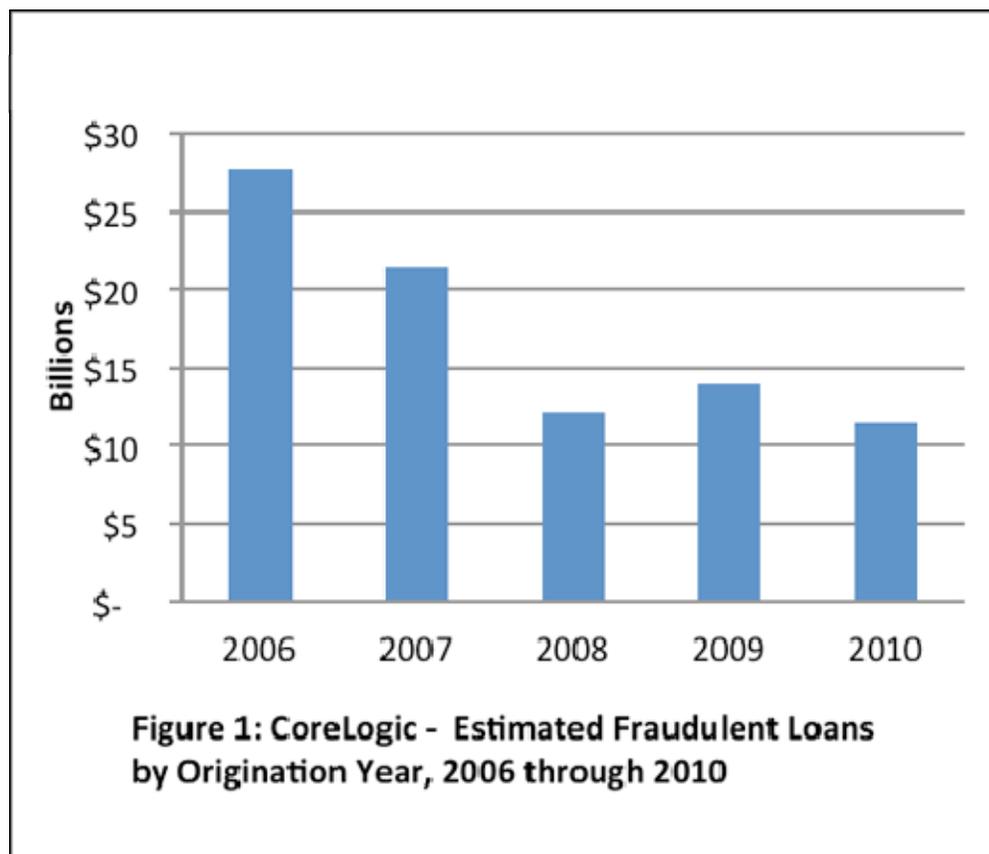
Although almost all families with seniors use government benefits, over a third of families without any seniors were on at least one government benefit program—even before the Great Recession.

In 2010, over 34 percent of American households received means-tested benefits—households which included nearly half of America’s children. Yet the poverty rate was only 15.1 percent.

In 1983, fewer than 30 percent of households received one or more government benefits. By 2011, this number had skyrocketed to 49 percent. Source: Eberstadt, 31–32. The growth in entitlement spending is a bipartisan phenomenon. In fact, for the last half-century, entitlement spending has grown faster under Republican presidents than under Democratic presidents.

From 1940 to 1960, entitlement transfers accounted for under a third of federal spending. Today over two-thirds of federal spending goes to entitlements. In 2010 alone, governments at all levels oversaw a transfer of \$2.2 trillion—three times as much as all military and defense spending that same year.

It isn’t just government handouts, though. The subprime scam of 1998-2008 corrupted a higher proportion of Americans than any economic phenomenon since slavery (and slavery, although wicked, was legal). Filing a false mortgage application is a felony, and millions of ordinary homeowners engaged in serious fraud during the peak years of the housing boom. The chart below was included in a [2010 FBI study](#) of mortgage fraud:



Scamming the government or scamming the banks is so commonplace that we take fraud for granted. Why shouldn't we? The financial industry has no qualms about it. Researchers from the University of Notre Dame's business school (courtesy of [Dealbreaker](#)) interviewed 1,200 respondents in the U.S. and UK and found that

*More than one-third (34%) of those earning \$500,000 or more annually have witnessed or have first hand knowledge of wrongdoing in the workplace*

*23% of respondents believe it is likely that fellow employees have engaged in illegal or unethical activity in order to gain an edge, **nearly double the 12% that reported as such in 2012.***

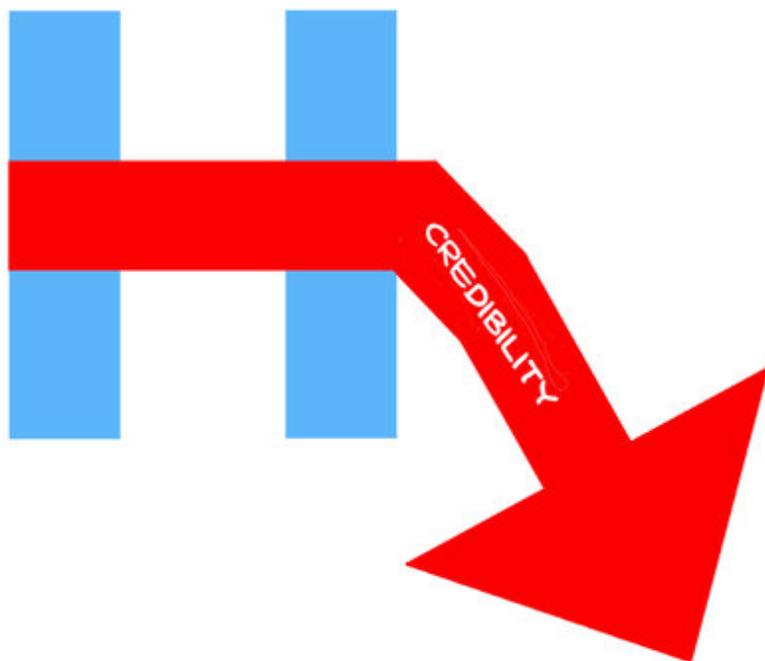
*-One in 10 respondents has signed or been asked to sign a confidentiality agreement that would prohibit reporting illegal or unethical activities to the authorities.*

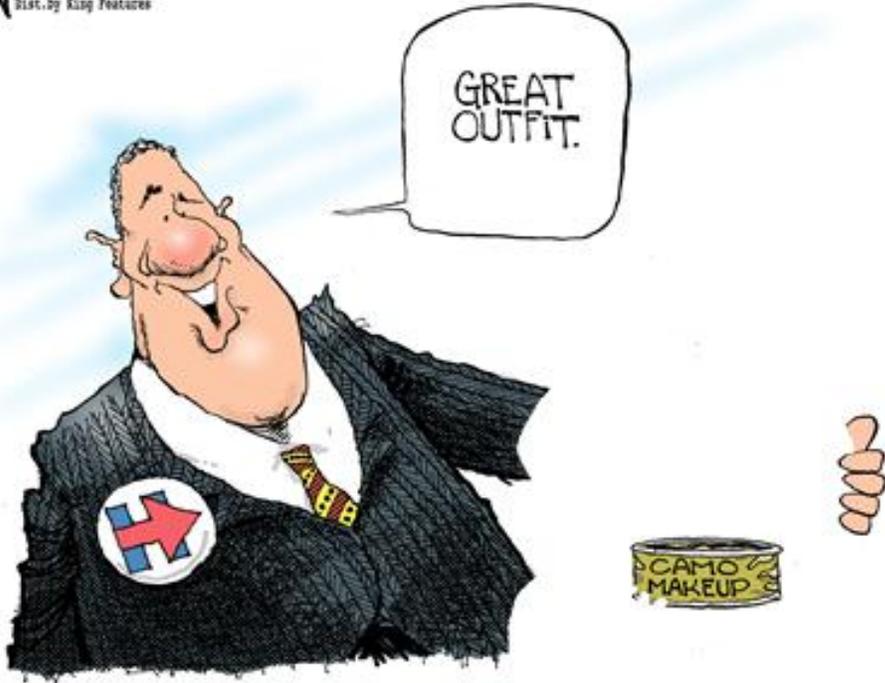
*-This figure surges to 25% for those respondents earning \$500,000 or more annually.*

After the biggest scam in U.S. financial history, the Obama administration has put exactly zero bankers in jail. Of course, it has levied tens of billions of dollars of fines on the banks, which is to say on the shareholders of the banks, who are mainly pension funds and life insurance companies. In other words, the Obama Justice Department taxed the savings of ordinary people to punish the malfeasance of the bankers. The bankers who committed the crimes walked away with their bonuses except in a small number of cases.

It's like the old joke about the housewife who calls her husband during the evening commute and says, "Be careful, dear—the television says there's a lunatic driving in the wrong direction on the freeway." "What do you mean, 'lunatic?'," the husband says, "There are thousands of them!"

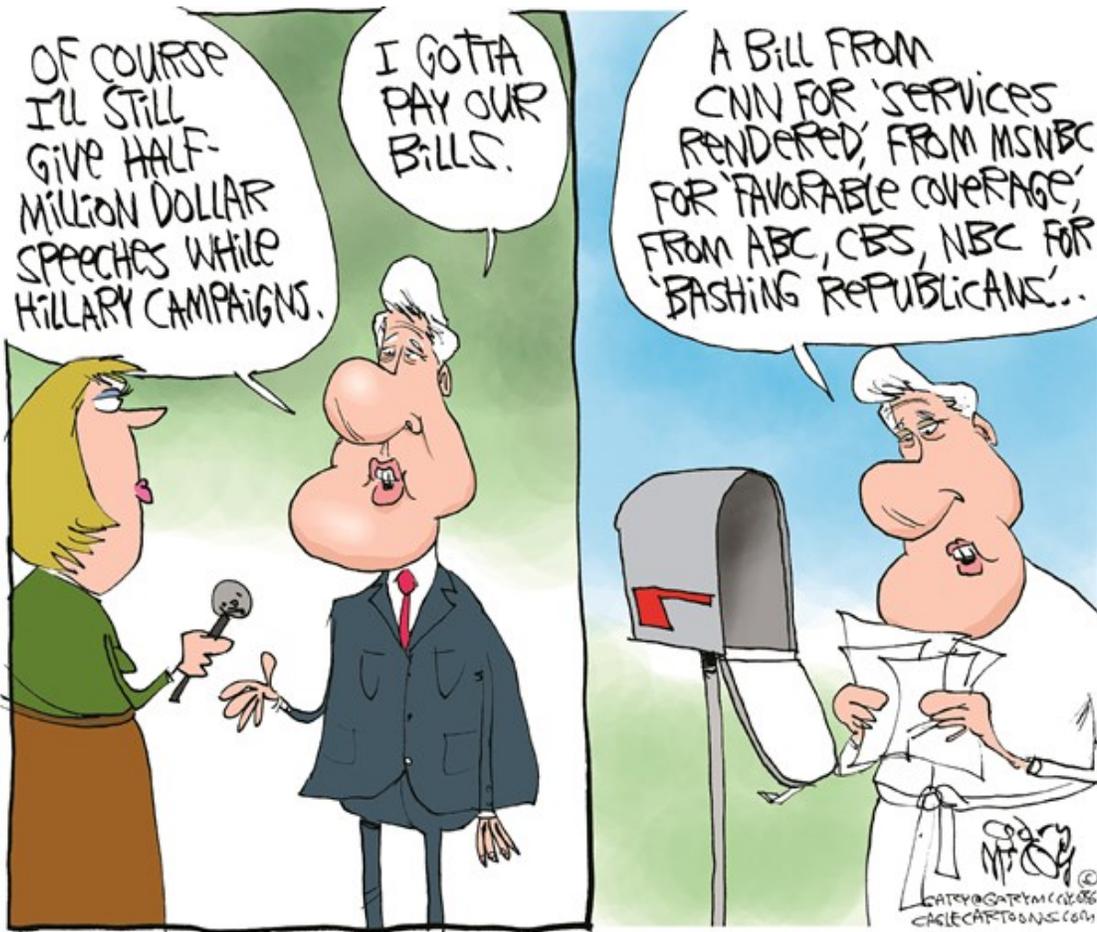
Democracy exists to give people the kind of government they deserve. If the American people do not have the moral fibre to extirpate corruption on the Clinton scale, they will deserve what's coming to them.





Hillary Clinton's Appearance on "Don't Meet the Press."







SUMMERS STRIBLING/CONT'D MTA/AG-BULLY  
© 2015



I'M  
ANXIOUS  
FOR MY  
(SCRUBBED, ERASED,  
SANITIZED, REDACTED,  
CLEANED, AND ALTERED)  
EMAILS TO  
BE  
RELEASED!

ARMA/© 2015 WILLY/CLIP-UPS 3-6



**PAY NO ATTENTION TO THOSE  
EMAILS AND FOREIGN  
CONTRIBUTIONS - THE  
GREAT AND INEVITABLE  
HILLARY HAS SPOKEN!**

