

July 29, 2015

Time for a Trump day. The existence and persistence of his candidacy puts the current state of our political life in its proper context. It is a cruel joke. Perhaps it takes a friendly foreigner, Rex Murphy of Canada's National Post, to put things in perspective.

*Mature Americans are appalled by what it means for their country, and how the rest of the world must be looking on — awed and horrified — at how deep American politics has sunk. But all those who deplore it, and all those sobbing in public, might want to ask how the Trump inflammation came to be. Why he is getting the response he is. Post columnist Graeme Hamilton gave some answers a few days ago. I'd like to add a few more.*

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*... Is he more manipulative than President “you can keep you doctor, you can keep you plan” Obama? Is he less venal or arrogant than Hillary “it’s my server and it’s my State Department” Clinton? ...*

*... My own view on Trump is fairly plain — he is a boor and a hyper-egotist, a shallow and avaricious blowhard, whose candidacy can almost stand as a rebuke to the idea of a democracy. But it is not Trump who should bear the responsibility for his success. It is the practice of politics itself and the political class (which includes, more and more, the news media) that has for so long abandoned honest representation of ideas, facing difficult issues with real language, which has so professionalized campaigns and elections that the sound of a human voice saying something it actually means is so rare.*

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*How sad a world it is when what even those of us outside America see the campaign for what should be regarded as the sublime office of the presidency of the greatest democracy in the world brought down to a spectacle not much more dignified than the Housewives of Beverly Hills, and of less class than the clammy gropings of The Bachelorette.*

**John Fund** says Trump will be happy to be a spoiler.

*... Now Trump is roiling political waters as a GOP candidate for president. He is set to speak on Saturday at Freedom Fest, a gathering of 2,000 free-market enthusiasts meeting in Las Vegas. Not everyone is happy with his presence. Brian Doherty of the libertarian magazine Reason says his “bona fides vis a vis freedom include loving (and practicing) eminent domain, hating free immigration, being pro-tariff and pro-war and believing Social Security and Medicare are secure and should be inviolate. (He has been good on the drug war in the past.)”*

Several other attendees also worry that Trump is egging on the GOP establishment to treat him so badly that he will have an excuse to run against it again in 2016. "The base is mad at the GOP leadership in Congress, worried conservative issues are getting ignored in the campaign, and fed up with political correctness," Floyd Brown, president of the conservative Western Center for Journalism, told me. "If he moved to a third-party candidacy, many of his followers would be there with him."

That, of course, is what happened in 1992. Then another eccentric billionaire, Ross Perot, who like Trump had issues with the Bush family and the GOP establishment, stayed in the race as a self-financed third-party candidate and was included in the presidential debates. ...

**Roger Simon** has Trump thoughts.

... Not only does he suck all the oxygen out of the room, he sucks it out of the galaxy. He makes all the other candidates vanish. Only Walker and Bush are registering in the latest polls and they're double-digits behind Donald. Did you know John Kasich declared today? (Who? What? Zzzz....) The real news of the day was Trump giving out Lindsey Graham's personal cell phone number after Graham called him an idiot — or was it the other way around? With The Donald it doesn't matter. Hold on a moment and the opposite will happen.

What do I think of him now, at this very moment, typing this, subject to change as that is in the next thirty-eight seconds? I say — bring it on! Why not Donald? We could do worse. Indeed, we have much worse. To say I'd prefer Donald to Madam Rodham doesn't mean much (I'd prefer anyone in the phone book), but just imagining a Hillary-Trump head-to-head makes me giggle. Has there ever been a spectacle like that in American politics? Not during the television era. My dream mano-a-mano (or should I say mana-a-mana?) would have been Hillary-Carly, but if I'm not going to get that, Hillary-Donald will more than suffice. Indeed, it may prove to be the greatest reality show ever made and I wouldn't bet against Donald winning. And I wouldn't bet against him running as a third party candidate either should he not get the Republican nomination. ...

**Victor Davis Hanson** sees similarities between Trump and current occupant.

.. But again, is Obama so different a spirit? He feels that his own winning charm and community-organizing skills can succeed with revolutionary leaders, in a way the political skills of a George W. Bush never could. Relations with Turkey hinged on a "special friendship" with Erdogan. Apparently, Obama felt that neo-Ottomanism, anti-Israel rhetoric, and increasing Islamization were mere proof of inevitable revolutionary turmoil, a good thing, but one that could be capitalized on only by someone like himself, who long ago was properly ideologically prepped. Ditto Obama's mythography of the Cairo speech before an audience that, on the White House's insistence, included members of the Muslim Brotherhood, or his outreach to Cuba and Iran (note his past silence about the 2009 green demonstrations in Iran). So if Obama has won over the world's one-time pariahs, maybe Trump can try the same first-person methodologies to coax the more business-minded prime ministers to our side. The self-absorbed idea of Trump outfoxing a Chinese kleptocrat is similar to that of Obama hypnotizing an Iranian theocrat.

*Donald Trump believes he can oversell America abroad in the manner of Chamber of Commerce boosterism; isn't that the twin to Obama underselling the country in the fashion of a wrinkled-browed academic? Both are stern moralists: America is too often shorted, and so Trump is angry over the sins of omission. For Obama, past genocide, racism, and imperialism vie as sins of U.S. commission.*

*Would a Trump bragging tour be all that much different from an Obama apology tour? If, in politically incorrect style, it is implied that all immigrants are likely to be criminals, is that any sloppier or more politically motivated than the politically correct assumption that all are dreamers? **Threatening to charge Mexico per illegal immigrant seems about as sensible as leaving the border wide open and nullifying existing immigration law.***

***There is no need to elect Donald Trump; we've already had six years of him.***

Jennifer Rubin says serious candidates can use him to their advantage.

*... The most sober-minded and mature of the likely debate participants — former Florida governor Jeb Bush, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), and former Texas governor Rick Perry (if he makes the debate), Ohio Gov. John Kasich (if he makes the debate) and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (if he makes the debate) — have shown a willingness to call out Trump.*

*If Christie decides to do his "sit down and shut up" routine, it will not only be must-see TV but a chance for Christie to stand up to a bully rather than be labeled as one. Jeb Bush, taller than people imagine, and capable of showing some righteous anger might also take advantage of the moment to show that Trump's no conservative (Trump has given generously to Democrats, supported government-operated universal healthcare and sounds like the AFL-CIO on trade) and thereby bolster his own conservative credentials. Perry has been the most cutting and most eloquent in indicting "Trumpism," and in fact may be angling for a fight so as to show off his leadership chops. Rubio, who looks younger than he actually is and hasn't shown he can throw a punch, likewise might have an opportunity to demonstrate grit and exude some presidential presence. And Kasich, who does not suffer fools gladly and is as likely to take on serious candidates as he is Trump, might well make a splash by invoking his conservative values (empathy, being one) and directly challenging Trump's character. In short, Trump might actually provide a much-needed iconic moment for one or more candidates to break out of the pack. ...*

Putting the lie to his boasts, Yahoo Finance lists twelve Trump business failures. Donald Trump catapulted himself into the spotlight with his gilded real estate ventures and vibrant personality. The latter is what has made his show "The Apprentice" such a huge success.

*And over the years, he's had an opinion or two about the business world.*

*"In the end, you're measured not by how much you undertake but by what you finally accomplish," [Trump once said](#).*

*But like any successful business person, Trump has had his share of setbacks. Here, we present to you 12 Trump businesses that went belly up or no longer exist. ...*

News Max reports the gnomes at Bloomberg Billionaires Index put the lie to another Trump boast.

*The latest math on Donald Trump: \$2.9 billion.*

*An analysis by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, based in part on a 92-page personal financial disclosure form made public last week, revealed a portfolio dominated by skyscrapers and golf courses. The celebrity presidential candidate says he's worth more than \$10 billion. ...*

We'll let Kevin Williamson have the last word in his piece titled "15 elephants and a clown."

... That Trump and Perry are received roughly as equals on the national stage is absurd, but politics thrives on absurdity. Perry has, to put it plainly, the best record of any modern American governor. Trump has celebrity and a knack for getting out in front of a parade, in this case ghoulishly grandstanding upon the corpse of Kathryn Steinle, a telegenic young white woman who was murdered by Francisco Sanchez, a Mexican illegal who had been deported five times and who apparently used a gun belonging to a federal agent in the killing. Trump has not offered even the outline of a serious program for stanching the flow of illegal immigrants, but he makes authoritative grunting sounds in the general direction of the southern border, which apparently is sufficient for one in five Republican voters. While the border crisis is indeed a national emergency, Trump makes it less likely rather than more likely that the federal power will be roused to do its duty, a fact to which Trump's camp apparently is indifferent. It has fallen to the newly professorial Perry to instruct these idiot children, while the other candidate from Texas, Senator Ted Cruz, has mainly engaged in a sad me-too appeal to the Trump element. The contrast is telling, and is a reminder that Senator Cruz, for all his many attractive qualities, is a tyro. ...

... Donald Trump, who inherited a real-estate empire worth hundreds of millions of dollars from his father, has had every opportunity to involve himself in the consequential questions of his time. He has been a very public figure for decades, with a great deal of time, money, celebrity, business connections, and other resources to put in the service of something that matters. Seventy years in, and his curriculum vitae is remarkably light on public issues for a man who would be president. One would think that a life spent in public might inspire at least a smidgen of concern about the wide world. He might have had any sort of life he chose, and Trump chose a clown's life. ...

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National Post (Canada)

[Don't Blame Trump ... Blame America](#)

by Rex Murphy



The number one name in American politics today is Donald Trump. All that might derail him right now from his front-ranking position, and his takeover of American presidential politics, is a declaration that Krusty the Clown has a release agreement from The Simpsons and will throw his nose into the campaign.

His campaign is, by all wise people, deplored. Serious people weep in the public streets at the thought of it. Mature Americans are appalled by what it means for their country, and how the rest of the world must be looking on — awed and horrified — at how deep American politics has sunk. But all those who deplore it, and all those sobbing in public, might want to ask how the Trump inflammation came to be. Why he is getting the response he is. Post columnist Graeme Hamilton [gave some answers](#) a few days ago. I'd like to add a few more.

I agree Trump is ridiculous — but he is an illustration of a problem and not its cause. Trump is not the swamp: he is the creature emerging from it. For however ridiculous and appalling his candidacy may be, it is no worse and no more ridiculous and appalling than the whole pattern of American politics at this time.

Is his candidacy more lunatic than the idea of a third President Bush or a second President Clinton? More despairing than the idea of an America so bereft of political talent that two families supply the major pool?

Is he more manipulative than President “you can keep you doctor, you can keep you plan” Obama? Is he less venal or arrogant than Hillary “it’s my server and it’s my State Department” Clinton?

Is his candidacy less perplexing than parts of the Democratic party’s fixations? Is it less lunatic that the spectacle of a former governor, Martin O’Malley — one of the few Democrats wandering the no-man’s land of opposition to the Hillary machine — apologizing, more than once, for asserting out loud that “all lives matter”? The Democrats have drilled so deep into the factionalism and demagoguery of identity politics — sexual and ethnic — that any appeal to universalism, any echo of the greatest phrase in the Declaration of Independence — “all men are created equal” — is now toxic? Donald Trump may be annoying, but he has said or done nothing that equals the fatuousness of a system in which the claim that all lives matter is seen as a troubling deviancy?

Is Trump less serious than trigger warnings? Is he less repellent than false and theatrical rape hoaxes that have beleaguered American campuses from Duke to Columbia? Less repellent than the supine American college administrations who bend with every breeze of the progressive mindset, and who supplant legal due process with their safe spaces and “victim”-buttressing hearings on campus misconduct?

Is Trump less theatrical than a congresswoman who takes Emma Sulkowitz, who strolled around her campus with a mattress on her head (or in place of it) for a whole year as an “art project” following her highly dubious and most likely false accusation of rape, to the State of the Union? Is anything, so far, that Trump has said more obviously silly than the often seriously reported claim that American universities, the very Bethlehem cradles of progressive thought and practice, are hotbeds of a “rape culture?”

On the issue that threw him into the frontrunner position in the Republican race the question may be raised: are his over-the-top, crude statements on immigration more unsettling, more out there, than the actual realities of the system he’s condemning?

Whatever Trump has said on immigration is not more dismaying than the fact that the U.S. has for decades paid no respect to its own borders. A nation that does not respect its own territorial integrity, and protect the idea and status of citizenship as its first value, cannot expect others to respect it. It is not Trump who is the outrage. Rather it is the political class of both U.S. parties, which have for decades temporized, dodged, euphemized and evaded the question of the country’s sovereignty and the impact of illegal immigration on it.

Is anything Trump has said more staggering or depressing than the idea that in egalitarian America, a couple of small-time business owners can get fined \$135,000 for not baking a cake? Where deviation from any of the “progressive dogmas” lights Internet fires and Twitter outrage flash mobs? More absurd than banning American soldiers the right to bear arms on their own bases and their home soil? More absurd than Fort Hood’s slaughter of 13 by a self-professed jihadi being labelled “workplace violence”?

Donald Trump and his campaign have a lot of catching up to do before he can be seen as more ridiculous, more frustrating, more crazy than the reality of American politics as it was before he entered it, and which itself both fostered and enabled a candidate such as he to become the force he now is.

My own view on Trump is fairly plain — he is a boor and a hyper-egotist, a shallow and avaricious blowhard, whose candidacy can almost stand as a rebuke to the idea of a



democracy. But it is not Trump who should bear the responsibility for his success. It is the practice of politics itself and the political class (which includes, more and more, the news media) that has for so long abandoned honest representation of ideas, facing difficult issues with real language, which has so professionalized campaigns and elections that the sound of a human voice saying something it actually means is so rare.

It is the toxic atmosphere of political correctness that suffocates so many voices that enables a Trump, when he rants with full stream-of-consciousness abandon, to be seen as a plain speaker, authentic and different.

How sad a world it is when what even those of us outside America see the campaign for what should be regarded as the sublime office of the presidency of the greatest democracy in the world brought down to a spectacle not much more dignified than the Housewives of Beverly Hills, and of less class than the clammy gropings of The Bachelorette.

## **National Review**

### **History Shows That Trump Is Perfectly Willing to Play the Spoiler**

By John Fund

Las Vegas — Donald Trump claims he isn't interested in running as a spoiler third-party candidate in 2016 if he fails to win the GOP nomination.

But he said much the same thing in 1999, until he rushed to Ross Perot's rump Reform party and announced he would run as a third-party candidate. Trump, whose middle name should be "Mercurial," later dropped out, suddenly becoming a Democrat out of antipathy to George W. Bush. (Trump remained a Democrat until well into Barack Obama's first year as president in 2009.)

Now Trump is roiling political waters as a GOP candidate for president. He is set to speak on Saturday at Freedom Fest, a gathering of 2,000 free-market enthusiasts meeting in Las Vegas. Not everyone is happy with his presence. Brian Doherty of the libertarian magazine *Reason* says his "bona fides vis a vis freedom include loving (and practicing) eminent domain, hating free immigration, being pro-tariff and pro-war and believing Social Security and Medicare are secure and should be inviolate. (He has been good on the drug war in the past.)"

Several other attendees also worry that Trump is egging on the GOP establishment to treat him so badly that he will have an excuse to run against it again in 2016. "The base is mad at the GOP leadership in Congress, worried conservative issues are getting ignored in the campaign, and fed up with political correctness," Floyd Brown, president of the conservative Western Center for Journalism, told me. "If he moved to a third-party candidacy, many of his followers would be there with him."

That, of course, is what happened in 1992. Then another eccentric billionaire, Ross Perot, who like Trump had issues with the Bush family and the GOP establishment, stayed in the race as a self-financed third-party candidate and was included in the presidential debates.

Trump is well aware of the parallel. He told Byron York of the *Washington Examiner* this week, "I think every single vote that went to Ross Perot came from [George H. W.] Bush. Virtually every

one of his 19 percentage points came from the Republicans. If Ross Perot didn't run, you have never heard of Bill Clinton."

Trump told Fox News this week, "I have many people that have asked me to go independent, and I think I would do very well if I went independent, but that's not my thinking. My thinking is to run as a Republican." But he also refused this week to rule out running as a third-party candidate. He told the *Examiner* he's "not thinking" about a third-party bid now solely because he is doing well as a Republican and he thinks he represents the best chance to beat Hillary Clinton.

But curiously, Trump has been very sparing in his criticism of Hillary Clinton. His most pointed jab came only this week after Clinton attacked his immigration comments. Trump responded the next day by calling her "the worst secretary of state in the history of our nation. Why would she be a good president? I think she would be a terrible president."

But for many years Trump has been far more positive about Clinton. Hillary Clinton attended Trump's 2005 wedding (and her husband Bill attended the wedding reception), and he has showered her Senate campaigns with contributions on four separate occasions. In 2012, after Clinton had been secretary of state for over three years, he told Fox News that she was a "terrific woman."

"I am biased because I have known her for years," he added. "I live in New York. She lives in New York. I really like her and her husband both a lot. I think she really works hard and I think she does a good job."

As MSNBC noted, a Trump spokesman "did not cite Benghazi or any other reason for his apparent change of heart. "Hillary Clinton was the worst secretary of state in the history of the United States," the spokesman repeated. "On top of that, she is extremely bad on illegal immigration."

Last month, after Trump's bizarre announcement comments, I put my tongue in cheek and asked if the modern P. T. Barnum of business was perhaps working as a double agent for the Left by making his rhetoric a media centerpiece of the GOP presidential race.

Some took me too seriously. The left-wing Salon.com called my column "asinine" and "bizarre."

But since then, events have unfolded to make a Trump third-party bid — which would probably allow Hillary Clinton to repeat Bill's feat of winning the presidency with a minority of the vote — only more likely. Despite their recent sparring session, I suspect that Trump and his businesses could survive a Hillary Clinton presidency quite nicely.

Rather than first admitting that Trump has a point about the egregious failure of U.S. officials to deport known illegal-alien criminals, GOP candidates have rushed to personally make *him* the issue by denouncing him. Nothing is more likely to give Donald Trump the grievance quotient he needs to run a third-party race than to have the GOP establishment belittle him and make light of the issues he raises. Even people here at the Las Vegas FreedomFest who disagree with Trump are angry that Republicans seem to find being politically correct about Trump more important than discussing sanctuary cities.

Donald Trump has been called by columnist Charles Krauthammer a "rodeo clown," but in reality Trump is more like the bucking bronco in a rodeo. Trump is a smart, canny operator who



looks after his own interests. The GOP should worry that they seem to have no effective strategy to corral the bronco and indeed may be providing him an opening to bust up their joint.

National Review's Neal Freeman has an excellent idea to limit the potential Trump damage. "Ask him now if he will commit to supporting the nominee of the party whose leadership he seeks. If he won't commit, kick him off the debate stage." No employer would keep someone on who didn't have the best interests of the company at heart, so that potential "You're fired" message is one Donald Trump would understand, even if he didn't agree with it.

**Roger L. Simon**

### Trump as Rorschach Test



Fox News owes Donald Trump a bazillion dollars. He has single-handedly transformed their broadcast of the first Republican presidential debate on August 6 — normally a routine event almost a year and a half out from an election and of significant interest only to political junkies — into a *coup de television* equivalent to Caitlyn Jenner appearing nude on *60 Minutes*. Who wouldn't want to watch?

Trump has become a kind of Rorschach test for all of us. He certainly has for me. I end up changing my opinion of him about every twenty minutes. (I don't call this site "[Diary of Mad Voter](#)" for nothing.) Like a Rorschach ink blot, sometimes he's a monster hurtling toward me, moments later a smiling pussycat with a wink. (Well, not quite that.) Again, as with Rorschach tests, much of my reaction is really me projecting. We project on The Donald, who is, after all, a prototypical American character ripped from the pages of Sinclair Lewis or Scott Fitzgerald, the Great Gatsby running for president. He is the object of our secret dreams, marrying ever younger while making billions and living as large as anyone could imagine. Who will play him in the movie? (Bring back Jack Nicholson in a carrot top!)

Not only does he suck all the oxygen out of the room, he sucks it out of the galaxy. He makes all the other candidates vanish. Only Walker and Bush are registering in the latest polls and

they're double-digits behind Donald. Did you know John Kasich [declared today](#)? (Who? What? Zzzz....) *The real news of the day* was Trump giving out [Lindsey Graham's personal cell phone number](#) after Graham called him an idiot — or was it the other way around? With The Donald it doesn't matter. Hold on a moment and the opposite will happen.

What do I think of him now, at this very moment, typing this, subject to change as that is in the next thirty-eight seconds? I say — bring it on! Why not Donald? We could do worse. Indeed, we have *much worse*. To say I'd prefer Donald to Madam Rodham doesn't mean much (I'd prefer anyone in the phone book), but just imagining a Hillary-Trump head-to-head makes me giggle. Has there ever been a spectacle like that in American politics? Not during the television era. My dream mano-a-mano (or should I say mana-a-mana?) would have been Hillary-Carly, but if I'm not going to get that, Hillary-Donald will more than suffice. Indeed, it may prove to be the greatest reality show ever made and I wouldn't bet against Donald winning. And I wouldn't bet against him running as a third party candidate either should he not get the Republican nomination.

My greater concern is that he would get bored being president and go off to build a hotel in Macao. But then, he wouldn't be the first. Obama seems bored half the time — and the other half of the time he's playing golf.

So, it's been thirty-eight seconds. How do I stand on The Donald now? Up? Down? Sideways? In between? Hedging my bets? Eeny-meeny-miny-moe?... Okay, yes. He's fine for now.

Tomorrow is, of course, another day. And another scandal.

## National Review

### [Obama and Trump: Two of a Kind](#)

***Outwardly they couldn't be more different. But take a closer look.***

By Victor Davis Hanson

President Obama is said to feel liberated, in the sense that he can finally say what, and do as, he pleases — without much worry any more over political ramifications, including presidential and congressional elections. Obama's lame-duck presidency has now devolved into the progressive bully pulpit that his base always longed for. Of course, his editorializing and executive orders may worry Hillary Clinton — much as Donald Trump's pronouncements do his more circumspect Republican rivals.

Trump is a celebrity who tweets and phones his praise of and insults to comedians, athletes, and media kingpins. But so does Obama love the celebrity world. He is comfortable with Jay Z and Beyoncé, picks the Sweet Sixteen on live television, and has reminded us that he's the LeBron of the Teleprompter, who won't choke under the spotlights. Both see pop culture and the presidency as a fitting together perfectly.

Would the Chicago community-organizing cadre be that much different from the Trump Manhattan clique? Isn't big-city know-how key to “fundamentally transforming” the country? Is there that much difference between Trump's golden name tags and Obama' faux Greek

columns, *vero possumus*, “We are the ones we have been waiting for,” and cooling the planet and lowering the seas?

Would not Trump perhaps agree with this Obama assertion from 2008: “I think that I’m a better speechwriter than my speechwriters. I know more about policies on any particular issue than my policy directors. And I’ll tell you right now that I’m gonna think I’m a better political director than my political director.” Both men seem to believe that the presidency is dependent on ratings, something like *The Apprentice*: “If I don’t have this done in three years, then there’s going to be a one-term proposition.”

In his current unbridled commentary and without worry over party politics, Obama has perhaps gone the full Trump — though in the opposite fashion of tossing out politically correct themes of the progressive Left, which lead to little concrete action. So Obama is Trump’s doppelgänger. The two see the world in similarly materialist — though, again, opposite — terms: Trump wants net worth to be the litmus test of political preparation (“The point is that you can’t be too greedy”), even as Obama professes that big money is a Romney-like 1 percent disqualification. Obama’s infamous communalistic quotes to the effect that you didn’t build that, at some point you’ve made enough money, and this is no time to profit are just bookends to Trump’s money-is-everything ideas that he built everything, he’s never going to make enough money, and it is always time to profit.

On matters of race, liberals seem to like the fact that Obama no longer lectures so much about pathologies endemic in black communities, but now focuses on institutionalized bias, as if he is tired of scripted talk about the preservation of the family, the need for education, and the avoidance of illegitimacy and drug use. It is far easier to reduce all that down to institutional racism and legacy unfairness, much as Trump waves his hands about the next complex issue — trade, China, immigration, veterans’ affairs — and tells his audiences that a distant “they” and “them” are the problem. The respective bases both love the message that someone else did it to us.

The media rightly notice Trump’s first-person — I, me, my, mine — overload, but that too is Obama’s favorite kind of pronoun. The president often refers to his “team” in narcissistic terms, as if the West Wing were a sort of Trump Tower. It is said that Trump is tasteless and gets into tit-for-tat squabbles or tosses out gross quips that are unpresidential. One wonders when Trump will make jokes about the Special Olympics, or about siccing lethal drones on the would-be suitors of his daughters. In any case, Trump handled NBC’s Katy Tur in the same manner in which Obama dispensed with CBS’s Major Garrett.

Trump was blasted for editorializing on the tragedy of Kate Steinle’s murder at the hands of a seven-time felon and five-time-deported illegal alien. But that habit of seeking political resonance in individual tragedies bears the Obama imprimatur. Although the Steinle tragedy did not offer Obama the correct political calculus, he has sought to channel Ferguson, Baltimore, and mass school shootings as fuel for his own political agenda. So far Trump has not quite descended to the level of the president’s use of a racial affinity with Trayvon Martin, although his quip about prisoners of war like John McCain being less than heroic comes close.

More importantly, like Trump, Obama does not worry over inconsistency or bombast, and has no hesitation about insisting on things that not only are not, but perhaps could not be, true. Obamacare would, Obama assured the nation, lower premiums and deductibles, reduce the deficit, and allow Americans to keep their current doctors and plans, but in fact it did no such things. Obama repeatedly warned his supporters that our immigration law was unquestioned settled law, duly enacted by Congress, and that no president could unilaterally override it — a

strange Freudian foretelling of exactly what the president would soon do. Reset with Russia was the proper corrective to George W. Bush's alienation of Vladimir Putin — only it was not, and instead ensured new levels of Russian–American alienation. The post-Saddam Iraq was a great achievement; the country was now secure and self-reliant enough for American troops to leave — and then it just wasn't, after we skedaddled. How exactly did the “jayvee” ISIS team punch above its weight as the varsity? “Guantanamo will be closed no later than one year from now.” That was six years ago, and Guantanamo is still in business.

Talks with Iran were originally supposed to have been predicated on anywhere, anytime inspections, no enrichment within Iran, real-time snap-back sanctions, and tough protocols about weapon purchases and subsidies for terrorists — until they really were not. Red lines were game changers, only they weren't — and they weren't even Obama's own red lines, but the U.N.'s. Chlorine gas did not count as a WMD: it wasn't really a weaponized chemical agent at all. Trump's inconsistencies and contradictions so far are no more dramatic.

Trump understandably envisions world leaders and foreign policy itself as World Presidents' Organization meetings of business pros like himself, who horse-trade to win their own constituents the better deal. Wheeler-dealers like Trump, we are to believe, are thus the most successful occupants of the Oval Office, especially when energized by savvy and innate charisma. The problem supposedly with our foreign policy is that bureaucrats and diplomats were never negotiators and dealers, and so got taken to the cleaners by far more clever and conniving foreign operators.

But again, is Obama so different a spirit? He feels that his own winning charm and community-organizing skills can succeed with revolutionary leaders, in a way the political skills of a George W. Bush never could. Relations with Turkey hinged on a “special friendship” with Erdogan. Apparently, Obama felt that neo-Ottomanism, anti-Israel rhetoric, and increasing Islamization were mere proof of inevitable revolutionary turmoil, a good thing, but one that could be capitalized on only by someone like himself, who long ago was properly ideologically prepped. Ditto Obama's mythography of the Cairo speech before an audience that, on the White House's insistence, included members of the Muslim Brotherhood, or his outreach to Cuba and Iran (note his past silence about the 2009 green demonstrations in Iran). So if Obama has won over the world's one-time pariahs, maybe Trump can try the same first-person methodologies to coax the more business-minded prime ministers to our side. The self-absorbed idea of Trump outfoxing a Chinese kleptocrat is similar to that of Obama hypnotizing an Iranian theocrat.

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Would a Trump bragging tour be all that much different from an Obama apology tour? If, in politically incorrect style, it is implied that all immigrants are likely to be criminals, is that any sloppier or more politically motivated than the politically correct assumption that all are dreamers? Threatening to charge Mexico per illegal immigrant seems about as sensible as leaving the border wide open and nullifying existing immigration law.

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## Right Turn

### Serious candidates can use Trump to their advantage

by Jennifer Rubin

The MSM is positively giddy over the potential that the first GOP presidential debate will be a circus, with Donald Trump as the ringleader. However, the reality may be somewhat different.

First, there will be moderators, and it is up to them to silence Trump — turn off his microphone if need be — to keep him from interrupting others. He should get no more attention than the others, and moderators who want a serious debate should not spend time letting each candidate opine on his character or lack thereof. Fox News no doubt will reap big ratings, but if it wants to continue as a serious news organization, its reporters will seek to control the debate and the competitors.

Well, you say, that's all well and good, but no one controls Trump. Nevertheless, how the competitors react to him and his provocations will be telling.

The most sober-minded and mature of the likely debate participants — former Florida governor Jeb Bush, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), and former Texas governor Rick Perry (if he makes the debate), Ohio Gov. John Kasich (if he makes the debate) and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (if he makes the debate) — have shown a willingness to call out Trump.

If Christie decides to do his “sit down and shut up” routine, it will not only be must-see TV but a chance for Christie to stand up to a bully rather than be labeled as one. Jeb Bush, taller than people imagine, and capable of showing some righteous anger might also take advantage of the moment to show that Trump's no conservative (Trump has given generously to Democrats, supported government-operated universal healthcare and sounds like the AFL-CIO on trade) and thereby bolster his own conservative credentials. Perry has been the most cutting and most eloquent in indicting “Trumpism,” and in fact may be angling for a fight so as to show off his leadership chops. Rubio, who looks younger than he actually is and hasn't shown he can throw a punch, likewise might have an opportunity to demonstrate grit and exude some presidential presence. And Kasich, who does not suffer fools gladly and is as likely to take on serious candidates as he is Trump, might well make a splash by invoking his conservative values (empathy, being one) and directly challenging Trump's character. In short, Trump might actually provide a much-needed iconic moment for one or more candidates to break out of the pack.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.), who has been licking Trump's boots and refusing to deplore his racist language, may have a tougher time. Does Cruz try to stay out of the way, or does he suddenly reverse (there is no one more opportunistic than he in the race) and decide he would be better served by following Perry, Christie and others in going after Trump. At this point his standing in the polls is so low and he is so starved for attention he might well try some spectacular stunt.

The biggest question is Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. He has been the most hesitant even to discuss Trump. Until Trump attacked war heroes and POWs, Walker hadn't said boo about Trump. He's also had his own troubles on immigration — Trump's favorite topic — so it's not clear whether Walker is ready to take on Trump on substance. Walker prides himself on standing up to challengers, to unions and to special interests, so it's somewhat out of character for him to try to lay low. He arguably has the most to gain — by showing his standoff with unions has made him battle ready — and the most to lose, if he shies away from a fight or gets run over

by Trump. Among the major candidates, he remains the least well known so his first impression in a debate will be crucial if he wants to recapture early momentum in the race.

Perry has shown how Trump — for all his vile and obnoxious behavior and rhetoric — can provide rivals with the opportunity to favorably present themselves, the conservative movement and the GOP. If Trump is cruel, racist and downright ridiculous, other Republicans can show they are big-hearted, inclusive and empathetic and, above all, presidential.

## **Yahoo Finance**

### **12 Donald Trump businesses that no longer exist**

by Elena Holodny

Donald Trump catapulted himself into the spotlight with his gilded real estate ventures and vibrant personality. The latter is what has made his show "The Apprentice" such a huge success.

And over the years, he's had an opinion or two about the business world.

"In the end, you're measured not by how much you undertake but by what you finally accomplish," [Trump once said](#).

But like any successful business person, Trump has had his share of setbacks. Here, we present to you 12 Trump businesses that went belly up or no longer exist.

### **Trump Mortgage (announced in 2006 – closed in 2007)**

**What happened:** Trump launched his own mortgage company, and his son predicted that it would be the No. 1 home-loan lender in the US. And then ... the housing market completely crashed in 2007. Trump's mortgage company was shut down after a year and a half.

**Shortly after the company's launch Trump [said](#) on CNBC:** "I think it's a great time to start a mortgage company ... who knows about financing better than I do?"

Source: [Time](#)

### **Trump Steaks (2007 – unknown)**





**What happened:** Trump launched his name-brand steaks specifically for Sharper Image (and naturally graced the cover of the Sharper Image catalogue) in [2007](#). They have since been discontinued.

The prices ranged from \$199 for a pack of 12 steak burgers and four steaks, all the way up to \$999 for a selection of 16 top cuts.

**Bonus:** The Trump Steakhouse in Las Vegas was briefly shut down following [51 health code violations](#), including expired yogurt and five-month old duck.

**What Trump [said](#) about his namesake meats:** "When it comes to great steaks, I've just raised the stakes! ... Trump Steaks are the world's greatest steaks ... Treat yourself to the very, very best life has to offer ... One bite and you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. And believe me: I understand steaks. They're my favorite food."

Source: [Business Wire](#)



## Trump Vodka (2006 – circa 2011)

**What happened:** Trump dipped his toes into the "super premium" vodka industry around 2006. It's unclear when exactly Trump Vodka was shut down, but by 2011 the drink was no longer being produced "under the Trump trademark because the company failed to meet the threshold requirements," Trump's people said, according to Gothamist.

However, perhaps Trump should have considered expanding into the global "super premium" vodka market. Much to his annoyance, in 2011 Trump's name-brand vodkas were being sold in Israel [without authorization](#).

**What Trump [said](#) about the vodka when it launched:** "By the summer of '06, I fully expect the most called for cocktail in America to be the T&T or the Trump and Tonic."

Source: [Gothamist](#)

## Trump: The Game (1989 – 1990, 2005)

**What happened:** Trump first released his own pseudo-Monopoly board game in 1989, but it didn't sell well at all and was discontinued after a year. After the success of his TV show, he revived and updated the game in 2005.

You can still purchase the game today via several [online retailers](#).

**What Trump's promo [said](#):** "Parker Brothers and Donald Trump are challenging consumers to determine whether they have the brains and the brawn to be the next Donald Trump with the launch of TRUMP the Game, the new high-stakes board game, where if you play your cards right, you can make hundreds of millions of dollars, just like The Donald."

Source: [Time](#)

## Trump Ice (Shut down in 2010)

**What happened:** Trump Ice has been available at Trump's casinos for some time, and according to Trump "it was so good that people wanted to buy cases of it!" So the bottles were produced and distributed to the masses. They never hit it big.

You can still find bottles on eBay if you're interested in tasting the "purest" bottled water. And although it was discontinued, the official [Trump website](#) says that you can find Trump Ice at "specialty food stores and grocery chains nationwide."

**What Trump said about the bottle design:** "It is fiery, isn't it? It's fire and ice! The water puts out the fire."

Source: [New York Magazine](#)

## GoTrump.com (2006 – 2007)

**What happened:** GoTrump.com was a search engine for bargains on luxury travel deals. It was powered by Travelocity.com, so it started off pretty well. However, the site was quickly ripped apart by [critics](#), and it was [shut down after a year](#).

**What Trump said when he launched the site:** "It doesn't matter how rich you are. You don't want to be a fool and you want to get the best deal. But people who aren't rich want to associate with rich, and that's why this thing has become so crazy."

"When you get millions of people using your service, and you get X dollars per person, it adds up to a lot of money."

Source: [The New York Times](#)

## Trump Magazine (2007 – 2009)



**What happened:** The Trump magazine was a collaboration between the Trump brand and what is now called Niche Media. It launched with glitz and loads of PR but was shut down after two years. According to the press release, "the quarterly magazine saw early success, cashing in on the booming advertising market for yachts and other high-end commodities."

2007 to 2009 was probably a difficult time for the "booming advertising market for yachts."

Before the first issue came out, [The New York Times](#) asked whether Donald Trump would be on the first issue's cover.

**How Trump replied to that:** "Only if they want to sell a lot of magazines."

Ultimately, his daughter Ivanka Trump graced the debut issue's cover.

Source: [Gawker](#)

## The New Jersey Generals (1983 – 1985)



Donald Trump announces he has signed Herschel Walker to play running back for the New Jersey Generals in New Jersey. ...

**What happened:** Trump originally owned the The New Jersey Generals — a United States Football League team — but quickly sold them to focus on construction projects like the Trump Tower. Later he changed his mind, reacquiring the team in 1984.

The team folded one year later, in 1985, along with the entire USFL. People [blamed Trump](#) for the demise of not only the team, but the entire league. Allegedly, he was trying to pull the Generals into the NFL — and made poor investment decisions in the process.

In May 2014, Trump expressed interest in [buying the Buffalo Bills](#).

**What Trump [said](#):** "Without me, the USFL would have been dead immediately. It was a league that was failing badly ... I did something I rarely do with the USFL. I went into something that was not good, not established. And it was failing. I knew that but I also went in for cheap. I bought something for peanuts."

He also called the USFL a "second-rate operation."

Source: [United States Football League](#)

## Trump Airlines (1989 – 1992)



**What happened:** Trump bought Eastern Air Shuttle in 1988, which had been running for 27 years between Boston, NYC, and D.C., and updated it to make it look more glitzy and Trumpesque. But because it was a short-distance airline, customers weren't looking for a luxury experience — just something that was convenient. The style-savvy investment was a bust.

On top of that, the pre-Gulf War fuel prices were extremely high. The airline never turned profit, and Trump defaulted on his loans.

**What Trump [said](#) about the airlines in retrospect:** "It worked out well for me ... I ran an airline for a couple of years and made a couple of bucks. The airline business is a tough business, [but] I did great with it."

Source: [Time](#)

## Trump Entertainment Resorts Inc. — 4 bankruptcies (1991, 2004, 2009, 2014)



**What happened:** Trump Entertainment Resorts filed for corporate bankruptcy four times. The first time was after the Trump Taj Mahal's construction in 1991. The next time was in 2004, when it "filed for voluntary bankruptcy after accumulating \$1.8 billion in debt." Next came 2008-2009, when the company missed a \$53.1 million bond interest payment. (The stock dropped to 23 cents per share from \$4.)

And finally, in September 2014, the company filed for [bankruptcy once again](#).

(The company still exists despite its bankruptcy.)

**What Trump [said](#) about the bankruptcies in court:** "I don't like the 'B' word."

Additionally, during an MSNBC interview, Michael Isikoff asked Trump what exactly he was paid for if he "had nothing to do with running the company."

**And Trump replied to that:** "Excuse me ... Because of my genius. OK?"

Source: [ABC News](#)



## Trump Tower Tampa (2006 – 2007)



**What happened:** There's a history of buildings that paid to be called "Donald Trump developments" but ultimately never became anything. One of these is Trump Tower Tampa.

Trump said he never had any plans to develop the building himself and that he only licensed his name to other developers.

Nothing ever came of Trump Tower Tampa, and the buyers lost a lot of money on the deal. The site was [finally sold](#) in 2011 for \$5 million.

**What Trump [said](#) in retrospect:** "[The buyers] were better off losing their deposit."

Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#)

## Trump University (2005 – 2011)



**What happened:** In 2005, Trump opened Trump University, a for-profit but non-accredited school where he would bestow his industry expertise upon the masses — aka anyone who forked over \$35,000. That same year, he licensed his name to an affiliate program called the Trump Institute.

In 2010, four students sued the "university" for "offering classes that amounted to extended 'infomercials,' 'selling non-accredited products,' and 'taking advantage of these troubled economic times to prey on consumer's fears.'"

The "university" then [changed its name](#) to "The Trump Entrepreneur Initiative."

And in 2013, the New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman [sued](#) Trump and Trump University for allegedly defrauding students.

The business officially [ended operations](#) in 2011.

**Trump compared his ideas to Einstein's in the "Trump University Entrepreneurship 101" [official book](#):** "Albert Einstein believed that a 'Theory of Everything' in physics unified the four primal forces of nature: gravity, strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, and electromagnetic force. Our unifying theory for sustainable success in business is so much simpler. [...] The Customer Is Everything!"

**What Trump [said](#) about Trump University:** "I went to the Wharton School of Finance ... I have a great feeling for education and for knowledge and learning ... I love the idea of helping people, because I've had a lot of experience with real estate, to put it mildly."

## News Max

### [Bloomberg: Donald Trump Worth About \\$3 Billion](#)

The latest math on Donald Trump: \$2.9 billion.

An analysis by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, based in part on a 92-page personal financial disclosure form made public last week, revealed a portfolio dominated by skyscrapers and golf courses. The celebrity presidential candidate says he's worth more than \$10 billion.

Trump has vaulted to the top of some polls in the crowded field of Republican contenders hoping to win the White House next year. His comments against illegal immigration and Senator John McCain's status as a Vietnam War hero have attracted attention—and renewed the focus on his many and varied claims to the size of his own wealth.

The majority of Trump's fortune is derived from real-estate holdings that include a partnership with Vornado Realty Trust in Manhattan's 1290 Sixth Ave. and 555 California St. in San Francisco; resorts such as the Mar-a-Lago and Trump Doral resorts in Florida; and Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York, according to the Bloomberg index. Other properties include Turnberry in Scotland and Doonbeg in Ireland, both golf courses.



The Bloomberg index values the real estate based on income it currently produces. Trump's retail spaces could fetch higher rents if vacated and leased to new tenants at prevailing rates. It doesn't value Trump's brand beyond accounting for cash held in accounts for his licensing deals and business partnerships. Trump's own estimations include much higher values for his brand.

Hope Hicks, a Trump spokeswoman, declined to comment. Iowa Event

During a campaign rally in Iowa Saturday, Trump said critics had doubted whether he would run for office because of the financial disclosure requirements.

"They said, 'Well, he's probably not as rich as people think.' But then it turned out I'm much richer." He said he's "actually worth more than \$10" billion.

Last month, Trump released a summary of his net worth as of June 30, 2014, which calculated his fortune at \$8.7 billion, including \$3.3 billion for the value of his name.

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking of the world's biggest fortunes. It uses a standardized approach to value the assets owned by the world's wealthiest people.

The analysis included a review of the personal financial disclosure Trump verified, signed and filed that was made public by the Federal Election Commission. The document provides top-line information on cash, marketable securities and airplanes, offering further clarity on assets.

The federal disclosure doesn't require Trump to list real estate that's only for his own use, nor other personal property such as art or clothing. Disclosure Range

The federal form requires disclosures of value ranges rather than specific sums. The government doesn't mandate how to assess real estate. Trump valued many properties in excess of \$50 million — the highest category on the form.

The Bloomberg analysis is based on purchase dates, square-footage figures, rental, occupancy and capitalization rates, operating margins, valuation ratios, leasehold arrangements and other mortgage data. The information was drawn from Trump-affiliated websites, documents filed with New York City and property consultants including Real Capital Analytics Inc., CBRE Group Inc., DTZ Holdings Plc., Faith Hope Consolo at Douglas Elliman Real Estate and Larry Hirsh at Golf Property Analysts. Royalties, Fees

There may be additional assets that the analysis doesn't include. The federal disclosure lists 11 entities without values or incomes, and those aren't included in the calculation. Also, Trump's disclosed revenue range of \$32 million to \$55 million from royalties, television, management fees, model commissions, restaurants and beauty pageants is accounted for as cash.

The following is a list of Trump's assets, as valued by the Bloomberg index:

\* The 30 percent stake in the two office buildings that are majority-owned by Vornado is valued at a combined \$640 million net of debt.

\* Trump's golf and resort properties are valued at a combined \$570 million, based on price-to-sales ratios for similar properties. Trump said last month that these holdings are worth \$2 billion based on the June 2014 figures, without disclosing his methodology. Trump Tower

\* A leasehold at 40 Wall St. in New York is valued at \$550 million before debt. Trump purchased the lease, which expires in 2059, for \$10 million in 1995, according to property records. He has the option of extending it through 2194.

\* Trump Tower is valued at \$490 million, before debt. That includes Trump's 30,000 square-foot (2,787 square meter) penthouse apartment, and the building's offices and retail spaces, including the Gucci store, which is valued at \$250 million. It doesn't include the building's condominiums, which Trump has sold, and are accounted for as cash.

\* A leasehold at New York's 6 East 57th St., which houses Niketown, is valued at \$470 million. Trump paid an annual rent of \$125,000 for the building through 2008. The following year, it jumped to 6 percent of the property's fair market value, leaving room for Trump to negotiate his rent, said Charles McDowell, owner of London-based Charles McDowell Property Consultants.

\* Trump has also developed several condominium buildings in Manhattan, and still owns some unsold storage space in the basements of these buildings. He owns unsold condominiums, including full-floor units at 502 Park Ave. that are valued at \$200 million. One of those apartments sold for \$21 million this month.

\* About \$300 million in cash, securities and aircraft, based on the maximum value for each account and security provided in the federal disclosure.

The index subtracts \$350 million in liabilities, mostly mortgages on marquee properties such as Trump Tower, 40 Wall St. and Trump Doral.

## National Review

### Fifteen Elephants and a Clown

*The Donald's life has been seven decades of buffoonery.*

by Kevin D. Williamson

If there was a good reason to distrust presidential candidate Mitt Romney, it had to do with his views on abortion. Not his position per se — as difficult as it is to understand the pro-choice tendency, there are people of good faith on both sides of the abortion question — but the fact that he arrived at that position so late in life and at a moment when his change of heart was politically convenient. Even if we assume that this was not simple cowardly political calculation, as in the matter of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama's evolving views on gay marriage, the situation must give us pause: If a man hasn't figured out what he believes about abortion by the age of 50 — after having been a father, a governor, a business leader, and an influential figure in an important religious congregation — it may be the case that he is not ready for the responsibilities of the presidency.

Donald Trump is looking at 70 candles on his next birthday cake, and his mind is, when it comes to the issues relevant to a Republican presidential candidate, unsettled.

If you are looking for a good reason to quit the Republican party (as I did some years ago), you can start with the company you are obliged to keep in the GOP: At the moment, about one in five Republicans are rallying to the daft banner of Donald Trump, heir to a splendid real-estate

fortune and reality-show grotesque, who is a longtime supporter of, among other Democratic potentates, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who remains, for the moment, the candidate against whom the Republican nominee presumably will run. (Herself's struggles are for the moment only an amusement, though they may someday prove to be serious.)

Trump has moved between the parties a number of times, but on the issues he is at home with the party of his good friend Chuck Schumer: He is pro-abortion, he has proposed punitive taxes on the wealthy, he favors a Canadian-style government health-care monopoly, etc. A lifelong crony capitalist, he is an enthusiastic partisan of the thieving *Kelo* regime, under which government can seize private property in the name of "economic development" — for instance, throwing retirees out of their paid-for homes to make room for a casino-hotel with a large "T" on the façade. Until the day before yesterday, he took an indulgent view toward normalizing the status of illegal immigrants, perhaps mindful of the fact that Trump Tower was built in part by illegal-immigrant labor and that one of his associates was in fact jailed over the matter.

For the moment, Trump's leading critic in the Republican field is former Texas governor Rick Perry, whose most famous public utterance is "Oops!" but who is Cicero next to Trump, Hyperion to a satyr. That Trump and Perry are received roughly as equals on the national stage is absurd, but politics thrives on absurdity. Perry has, to put it plainly, the best record of any modern American governor. Trump has celebrity and a knack for getting out in front of a parade, in this case ghoulishly grandstanding upon the corpse of Kathryn Steinle, a telegenic young white woman who was murdered by Francisco Sanchez, a Mexican illegal who had been deported five times and who apparently used a gun belonging to a federal agent in the killing. Trump has not offered even the outline of a serious program for stanching the flow of illegal immigrants, but he makes authoritative grunting sounds in the general direction of the southern border, which apparently is sufficient for one in five Republican voters. While the border crisis is indeed a national emergency, Trump makes it less likely rather than more likely that the federal power will be roused to do its duty, a fact to which Trump's camp apparently is indifferent. It has fallen to the newly professorial Perry to instruct these idiot children, while the other candidate from Texas, Senator Ted Cruz, has mainly engaged in a sad me-too appeal to the Trump element. The contrast is telling, and is a reminder that Senator Cruz, for all his many attractive qualities, is a tyro.

The Trumpkins insist that this isn't about Trump but about the perfidious Republican establishment, which is insufficiently committed to the conservative project. Fair enough. But what of Trump's commitment? Being at the precipice of his eighth decade walking this good green earth, Trump has had a good long while to establish himself as a leader on — *something*. He isn't a full-spectrum conservative, but he seems to have conservative-ish instincts on a few issues. What has he done with them? There are many modes of leadership available to the adventurous billionaire: Sheldon Adelson, the casino magnate who is the less famous and more competent version of Trump, is directly involved in campaigns, while Charles and David Koch have engaged in electoral politics *and* done the long-term (and probably more consequential) work of nurturing a stable of institutions dedicated to advancing the cause of liberty, and Bill Gates has put his billions behind his priorities. Trump has made some political donations — to Herself, to Harry Reid, to Nancy Pelosi, to Schumer — and his *defense* is that these were purely self-serving acts of influence-purchasing rather than expressions of genuine principle. There is no corpus of Trump work on any issue of any significance; on his keystone issue, illegal immigration, he has not even managed to deliver a substantive speech, a deficiency no doubt rooted in his revealed inability to voice a complete sentence.

Donald Trump, who inherited a real-estate empire worth hundreds of millions of dollars from his father, has had every opportunity to involve himself in the consequential questions of his time.

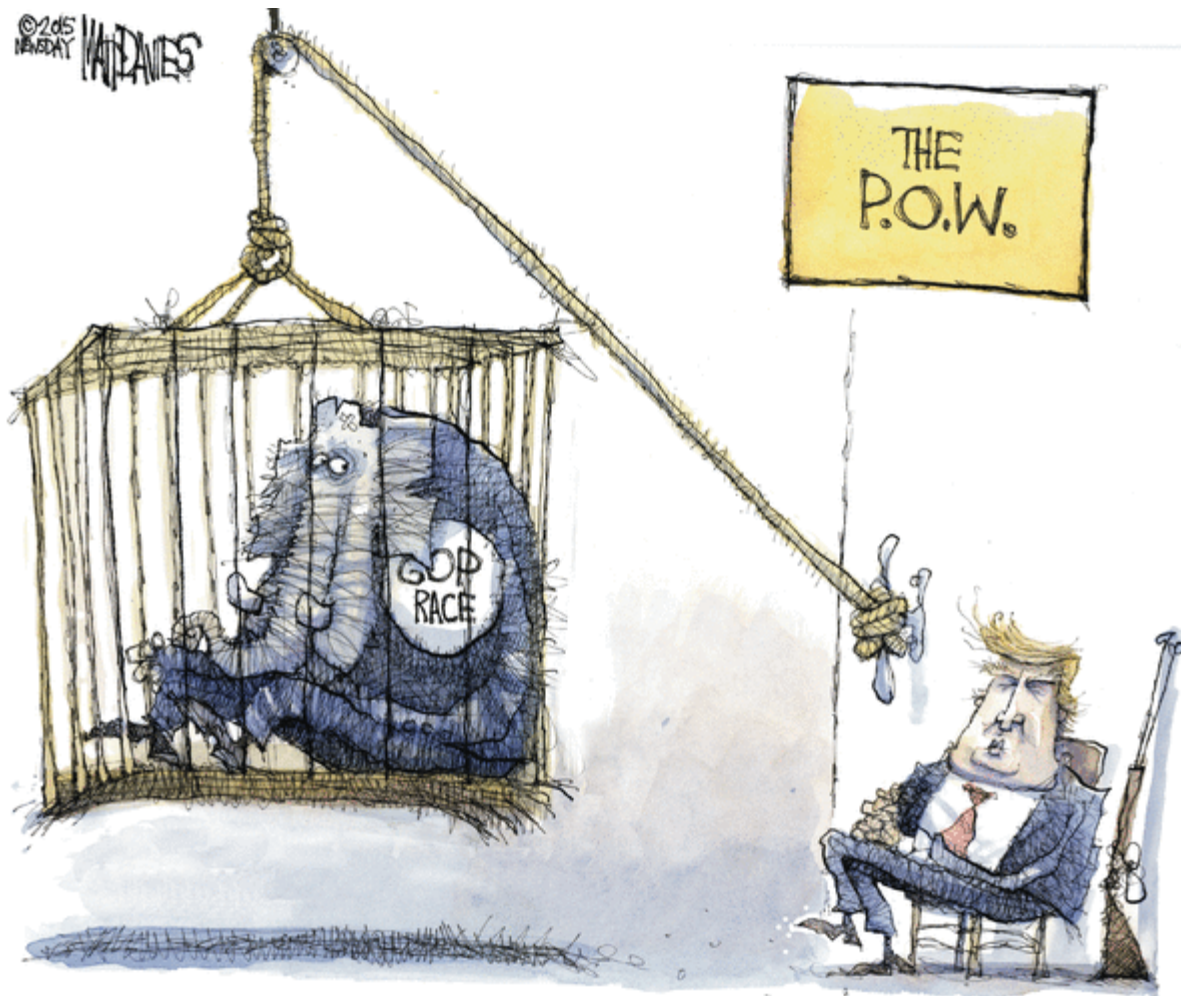
He has been a very public figure for decades, with a great deal of time, money, celebrity, business connections, and other resources to put in the service of something that matters. Seventy years in, and his curriculum vitae is remarkably light on public issues for a man who would be president. One would think that a life spent in public might inspire at least a smidgen of concern about the wide world. He might have had any sort of life he chose, and Trump chose a clown's life. There is no shortage of opportunities for engagement, but there is only one thing that matters to Trump, and his presidential campaign, like everything else he has done in his seven decades, serves only that end.







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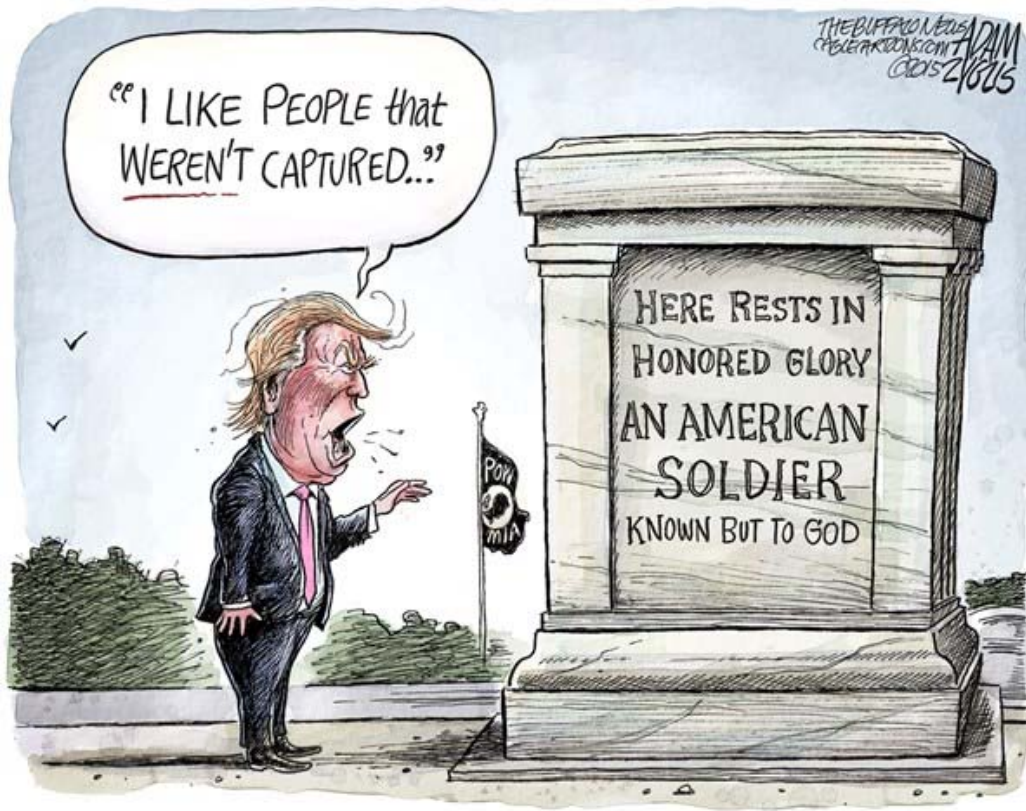




TRUMP'S NEXT CAMPAIGN

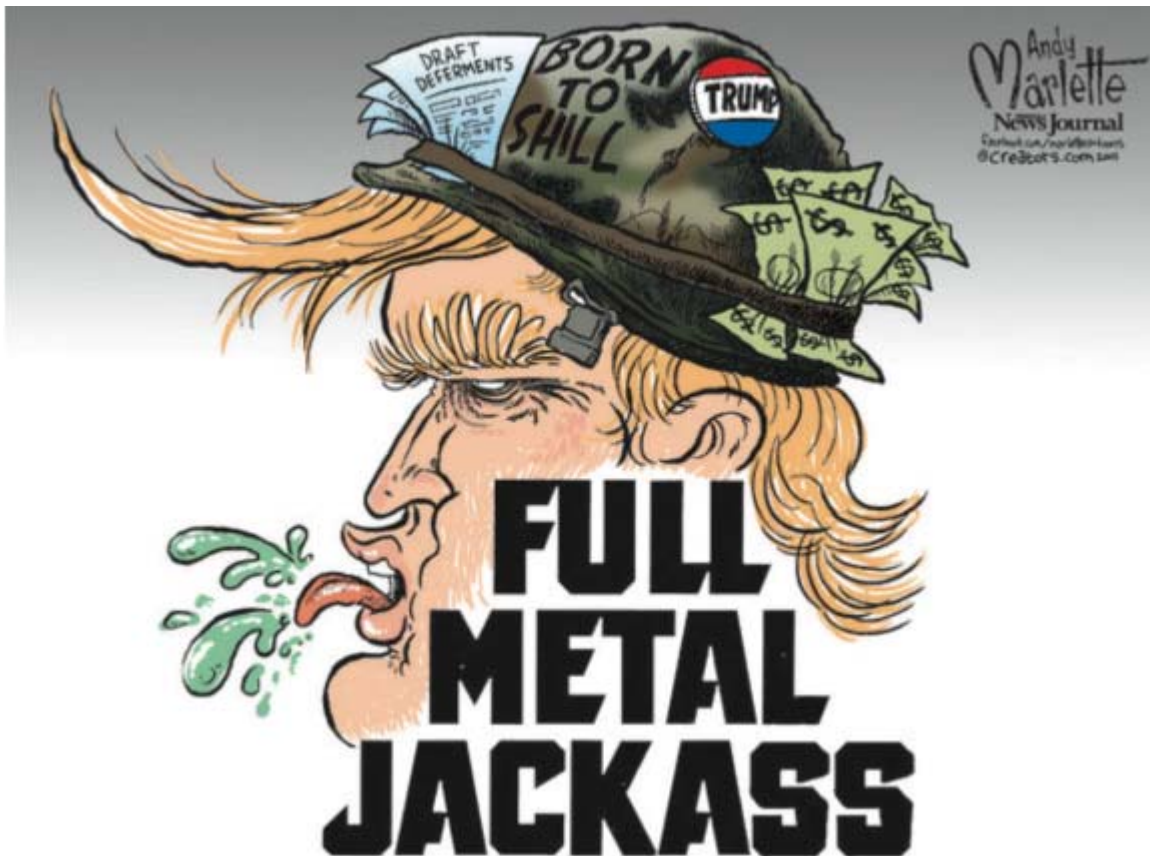








**WHO WORE IT  
BETTER?**





**Donald Trump?**